1	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
2	ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
3	
4	In the Matter of:
5	Application for Certification)
6	for the Otay Mesa Generating) Docket No. 99-AFC-5 Project (PG&E Generating))
7)
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEOTAPED PROCEEDINGS
13	STATUS CONFERENCE - OTAY MESA GENERATING PROJECT
14	SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ROOM 358
15	TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2000 - 2:00 P.M.
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	Transcribed by Kelly Barbera, CSR No. 8295
23	
24	
25	

1	Appearances:
2	Robert Laurie, Commissioner Robert Pernell, Commissioner
3	Susan Gefter, Hearing Officer Ellen Townsend-Smith, Advisor
4	Scott Thomashefsky, Advisor Eileen Allen, CEC Staff
5	Jeff Ogata, CEC Counsel Roberta Mendonca, Public Advisor
6	Sharon Segner, PG&E Generating Bevin Hong, PG&E Generating
7	Eric Eisenman, PG&E Generating William Chilson, PG&E Generating
8	William Claycond, Save Our Bay, Inc.
9	Ben Montoya, SDG&E Dave Korinek, SDG&E
10	Mike Thorp, Sempra Energy Pat Fleming, Sempra Energy
11	Ryan O'Neal, Sempra Energy Mark Ward, Sempra Energy Michael Lake Fin Pollution Control District
12	Michael Lake, Air Pollution Control District Peter Hanschen, Harrison & Foerster Steve Roberts, NCG Porter Novelli
13	Robert Ray, URS Corporation Alan Cumnes, MRW & Associates
14	Carolyn Baker, Duke Energy
15	Douglas Kerner, Ellison, Schneider & Harris Christine Henning, Cabrillo Power
16	John McKinsey, Cabrillo Power R.H. Weatherwax, Sera, Inc.
17	Holly Duncan, member of the public Alan Thompson, Counsel to PG&E
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

1 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA; TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2000; 2:00 P.M.

2

* * *

4

- 5 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Ladies and gentlemen,
- 6 at this time I'd like to call the meeting to order.
- 7 This is a status conference on the Otay Mesa generating
- 8 project. My name is Robert Laurie. I'm a commissioner
- 9 at the California Energy Commission, and I am presiding
- 10 member of the committee hearing this case. This
- 11 committee is responsible for providing a full
- 12 recommendation on the project to the commission in the
- 13 future.
- 14 I'd like to introduce my colleague on the
- 15 committee, Commissioner Robert Pernell. To my immediate
- 16 right is Ms. Susan Gefter. Ms. Gefter is the Hearing
- 17 Officer assigned to this case. We will be asking
- 18 Ms. Gefter to administer this hearing today. To the
- 19 right of Commissioner Pernell is Ms. Ellen
- 20 Townsend-Smith, Commissioner Pernell's advisor, and to
- 21 my left is Mr. Scott Tomashefsky, my senior advisor.
- 22 At this time I will turn the matter over to
- 23 Ms. Gefter. Among other things, I will be asking for
- 24 introductions. I would like to note that this hearing
- 25 is being recorded and so the recorder is very much the

- 1 captain of this ship. Should anything occur that would
- 2 cause the recording to temporarily stop, we will stop
- 3 the proceeding until the matter is repaired. Also, in
- 4 case there is a difficulty hearing you, we will let you
- 5 know because it's important that we get your full
- 6 comments on the record.
- 7 Commissioner Pernell, did you have any
- 8 opening comments this morning?
- 9 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: Not at this time,
- 10 Mr. Laurie. Thank you.
- 11 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Thank you, sir.
- 12 Ms. Gefter.
- MS. GEFTER: A little background before we
- 14 proceed to introductions. PG&E Generating filed an
- 15 application for certification for an AFC with the Energy
- 16 Commission to obtain a license to build and operate the
- 17 Otay Mesa generating project which is a proposed power
- 18 plant facility near the City of Chula Vista.
- 19 The purpose of today's committee status
- 20 conference is to discuss several issues regarding the
- 21 AFC and to determine whether the existing committee
- 22 schedule should be modified. At this point we'd like
- 23 the parties to introduce themselves, the Applicants
- 24 starting first.
- MR. THOMPSON: My name is Alan Thompson and

- 1 I'm CEC private counsel for the generating company.
- 2 Sharon Segner to my left, she is the project manager for
- 3 PG&E. In the audience we have Mr. Bill Chilson who is
- 4 environmental manager for West Coast and Robert Ray from
- 5 Woodward-Clyde. We have a number of people who are
- 6 experts in various aspects of the issues today, most
- 7 notably some of the gas companies.
- 8 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. Staff, introduce
- 9 your representatives today.
- 10 MS. ALLEN: I'm Eileen Allen, the California
- 11 Energy Commission's project manager for the Otay Mesa
- 12 project.
- MR. OGATA: I'm Jeff Ogata. I'm the staff
- 14 counsel for the Energy Commission.
- MS. GEFTER: And our public advisor is here
- 16 also.
- 17 Would you please come up and introduce
- 18 yourself?
- 19 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Can you folks in the
- 20 back hear okay? Thank you.
- MS. MENDONCA: Good afternoon. My name is
- 22 Roberta Mendonca, and I'm the public advisor with the
- 23 California Energy Commission. And should you have
- 24 questions about our process today, I am here to help you
- 25 with those questions.

- 1 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. Now I'd like the
- 2 intervenors to introduce themselves. Is there a
- 3 representative from Duke Energy?
- 4 MS. BAKER: Yes.
- 5 MS. GEFTER: Could you please come up and
- 6 introduce yourself?
- 7 MS. BAKER: Carolyn Baker, director of
- 8 regulatory affairs, Duke Energy, North America.
- 9 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. Is there a
- 10 representative from NRG Energy?
- 11 MR. McKINSEY: John McKinsey on behalf of
- 12 actually Cabrillo which is a partnership that's being
- 13 done with NRG Energy, Incorporated which is operating
- 14 the Encina Valley plant. Also here with me is Paul
- 15 (inaudible), a gas and transmission analyst.
- 16 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: One second. How does
- 17 the formal intervention read?
- 18 MS. GEFTER: It says NRG Energy.
- 19 MR. McKINSEY: Actually in our petition we
- 20 submitted I think it did say Cabrillo. It listed, I
- 21 think, as NRG.
- 22 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Yes. I would ask that
- 23 you file an amendment so that the record remains clear.
- 24 MR. McKINSEY: Well, actually we do represent
- 25 Cabrillo, and that's what we filed on our petition.

- 1 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. Mr. Claycond from
- 2 Save Our Bay, would you please come forward? Thank you.
- 3 MR. CLAYCOND: Yes, ma'am. I'm William E.
- 4 Claycond, Save Our Bay, Inc.
- 5 MS. GEFTER: Mr. Claycond, we have your
- 6 motion to direct the Applicant to respond to your data
- 7 request.
- 8 MR. CLAYCOND: Yes, ma'am.
- 9 MS. GEFTER: And we're going to be talking
- 10 about that later today.
- MR. CLAYCOND: Thank you.
- 12 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. And is there a
- 13 representative from SDG&E?
- MR. THORP: Yes, a whole host of
- 15 representatives here. I'm Mike Thorp, attorney for
- 16 SDG&E. We have Ben Montoya here to speak out if you
- 17 have any questions on gas issues, David Korinek on
- 18 electric transmission issues, and Pat Fleming from
- 19 regulatory affairs.
- 20 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. Are there any
- 21 representatives from local agencies here, from San Diego
- 22 County Planning Department? Is there anyone from the
- 23 San Diego Air Pollution Control District here? Any
- 24 other local agencies' representatives at this point?
- 25 Thank you.

- 1 Are there members of the public who intend to
- 2 address the committee? If you do, please come forward
- 3 and introduce yourself now.
- 4 MS. DUNCAN: Holly Duncan, a member of the
- 5 public, a concerned member of the public.
- 6 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. I'm going to talk
- 7 about the issues for discussion today. The parties
- 8 filed status reports indicating that several issues had
- 9 not been resolved and those topics include air quality,
- 10 biological resources, traffic and transportation, power
- 11 plant efficiency and reliability related to gas pipeline
- 12 capacity and transmission system engineering that would
- 13 be affected by the gas curtailment issues.
- 14 Today we intend to focus on a timetable for
- 15 completing these items. In the notice for this
- 16 conference we've directed the parties to address a
- 17 series of questions focused on the gas pipeline capacity
- 18 issue. We have received written responses and will ask
- 19 the parties to present their responses as part of
- 20 today's discussion.
- 21 The public advisor has circulated an agenda
- 22 with a list of topics and order of presentations. The
- 23 agenda is back on that table. Note that although the
- 24 time allotted to each topic is approximate, we will have
- 25 a firm adjournment time of 5:00 p.m. today. We'll begin

- 1 with air quality. We'll ask each party to discuss that
- 2 issue. Then we will follow with biology, traffic, and
- 3 finally gas and transmission issues. We've allocated
- 4 about 55 minutes for the first three topics, and then
- 5 we'll take a short break and return for a 90-minute
- 6 discussion on the topic of gas pipeline issues.
- 7 We will ask the Applicant to make
- 8 presentations first and then the staff, then the
- 9 intervenors, and then the agency representatives. We
- 10 will have questions at the conclusion of each topic.
- 11 Time for public comment will be provided after the
- 12 parties have concluded all their presentations.
- Before we begin with the Applicant's
- 14 presentation on air quality are there any questions
- 15 about the process? Would the Applicant please open the
- 16 discussion?
- 17 MS. SEGNER: Hello. My name is Sharon Segner
- 18 and I'm with PG&E Generating. We're happy to give a
- 19 presentation of where we are in respect to the various
- 20 issues. Just one second while we get the slides up.
- 21 The comments that I have prepared address all three
- 22 issues.
- 23 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Ms. Segner, hold on one
- 24 moment so we can adjust the mike. Thank you.
- MS. SEGNER: The comments that I have

- 1 prepared are complete proposals in terms of where things
- 2 are at from a timing standpoint, but I will just focus
- 3 on the specific issues at hand.
- 4 As a starting point, my next slide, please,
- 5 overall in light of the events in the last month in
- 6 San Diego we thought it would be appropriate to have one
- 7 slide on the events of the past month in San Diego as
- 8 well. Energy issues have been on the front page of the
- 9 paper every day for the last month in San Diego, and
- 10 clearly an onslaught of local and political and consumer
- 11 interests in energy issues is rising here in San Diego
- 12 including numerous hearings that have been called by
- 13 the San Diego Board of Supervisors as well as the mayor
- of San Diego and congressional hearings as well.
- 15 As a result, there is heightened awareness in
- 16 consumer -- consumer awareness in the need for local
- 17 generation and concern on power supply.
- 18 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: And, Ms. Segner, will
- 19 you define the rationale for the discussion of need as
- 20 related to this case?
- 21 MS. SEGNER: Our rationale is that there is
- 22 more generation in San Diego that is needed, and our
- 23 application is in response to the need for additional
- 24 generation in San Diego.
- 25 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: And why is that

- 1 relevant to the findings of this body?
- 2 MS. SEGNER: The need for generation is --
- 3 the underlying fundamental need for generation is
- 4 relevant for starting the power plant.
- 5 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Mr. Thompson, can you
- 6 clarify that on behalf of your client, please?
- 7 MR. THOMPSON: I think the Applicant's
- 8 position is that the need that has been discussed in the
- 9 past has been eliminated by legislation after the first
- 10 of this year. However, in areas such as San Diego where
- 11 generation is very much needed, that need underlies
- 12 public concern, public comment, and many of the actions
- 13 and feelings of the community. And in that way I think
- 14 the generating company believes it's relevant.
- MS. SEGNER: We're ready to move on to the
- 16 next slide on air quality. In terms of progress on key
- 17 issues, we would like to address the progress on the
- 18 mobile offsets and the regulatory framework, the PDOC,
- 19 the CEQA/EIR analysis of Rule 27, the submittal of
- 20 offset contracts, and FDOC.
- 21 On the biology -- and later on in the
- 22 discussion we're prepared to discuss the Section 7
- 23 consultation on the transmission, on the resolution and
- on the transmission issues, gas reliability, and county
- 25 issues as well.

- 1 The Otay Mesa PDOC was issued on June 19th by
- 2 the San Diego Air Pollution Control District. The
- 3 public comment period on the PDOC ended yesterday. The
- 4 Air District is in the process of, my understanding,
- 5 compiling the various comments and at that point we'll
- 6 be moving ahead toward issues of FDOC. At the same time
- 7 the Air District Rule 27 review is in process right now.
- 8 The EIR has issued an early -- July of this month. The
- 9 EIR public comment period ends August 1st of 2000, and
- 10 at that point the Air District will pool together the
- 11 comments as that goes into the FDOC as well.
- 12 In terms of the offset purchase update,
- 13 120 tons of NOX offsets are required. VOC and PM10
- offsets are not required per the Air District's
- 15 conclusion. Today we have 70 tons of NOX or NOX
- 16 equivalent under contract. 45 tons are from stationary
- 17 offsets and 25 tons are from the San Diego Harbor
- 18 excursions. The MERC application related to San Diego
- 19 Harbor excursions has also been filed with the Air
- 20 District.
- 21 The remaining 50 tons we expect to announce
- 22 within a matter of several weeks an additional 35 ton
- 23 MERC transaction. It will be a very significant
- 24 transaction. We are under confidentiality and
- 25 exclusivity for this MERC arrangement, and we have been

- 1 holding off on the signing of that arrangement until the
- 2 EIR process has finished the public comment period and
- 3 we have the results of the public comment period.
- 4 Most likely, the additional remaining 15 ton
- 5 deficit, we anticipate signing those contracts within
- 6 the next couple of weeks and we anticipate that it will
- 7 be another significant offset as regarding the boats.
- 8 That concludes our comments and status on air quality
- 9 issues.
- 10 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: Excuse me, Miss. The
- 11 additional 15 offsets, are you saying that there also
- 12 would be boats in the harbor?
- 13 MS. SEGNER: The San Diego Harbor excursions,
- 14 we potentially will be adding another boat that will
- 15 comprise about 15 tons, and there is another entity that
- 16 we are about to finalize with another eight or nine tons
- 17 from that entity as well.
- 18 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: Okay. So you're
- 19 replacing an old polluted engine with a new boat?
- MS. SEGNER: That's correct.
- 21 MS. GEFTER: I would like to have staff give
- 22 their presentation on air quality.
- MS. ALLEN: The Energy Commission staff
- 24 intends to file its preliminary staff assessment, what
- 25 we frequently refer to as PSA, on or about August 4th,

- 1 2000. Previously we had told the committee more firmly
- 2 that we had planned to file on August 4th. Please note
- 3 that our staff has been affected by the filing of -- or
- 4 by the proposal by PG&E for an emergency barge to be
- 5 anchored in San Francisco Bay. So the same air quality
- 6 staff has been evaluating that project. We're working
- 7 diligently to file the air quality analysis as close to
- 8 August 4th as possible.
- 9 Staff is concerned that we have not seen a
- 10 complete and final offset package. The longer the
- 11 offsets are still in negotiation, the longer it will be
- 12 until we can come to a final evaluation. From the
- 13 statewide perspective staff is looking at the need for
- 14 PM10 offsets. I understand that they are not a
- 15 requirement at the Air District level, but staff does
- 16 look at that. And we haven't come to any final
- 17 conclusions, but it is one of the things that we are
- 18 considering.
- 19 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Well, then, if that is
- 20 a point of disagreement, then at what time will the
- 21 parties want to bring that question to the committee for
- 22 a determination? It doesn't make any sense to argue for
- 23 the next six months over an issue if the committee is
- 24 prepared to tell you what we're going to accept. The
- 25 committee is not prepared to tell you today, but the

- 1 question has not been presented to them.
- 2 Point B is that when it comes to time frames,
- 3 if there are disagreements between the parties, and
- 4 rather than spend time treading water over those issues,
- 5 the parties are free to bring issues to the committee
- 6 for interim resolution.
- 7 MS. ALLEN: I expect that it will be a topic
- 8 of discussion once staff's PSA is filed. I'll be
- 9 scheduling a PSA workshop on the air quality analysis,
- 10 and I expect that if the Applicant has a concern with
- 11 our conclusions that it will come out there and we'll
- 12 keep you apprised.
- 13 Finally, we're still talking with US/EPA
- 14 about their concern regarding timing and the prevention
- 15 of significant deterioration permits. I'm going to ask
- 16 Jeff Ogata to summarize the latest discussions with
- 17 EPA's air quality staff.
- 18 MR. OGATA: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
- 19 Jeff Ogata, CEC staff counsel. This is an issue that is
- 20 affecting all of the siting cases that we are currently
- 21 examining. EPA by virtue of being the federal agency
- 22 that has asked for consultation from the Fish and
- 23 Wildlife Service regarding endangered species has
- 24 determined that they will not allow air districts to
- 25 file the final DOC until the biology issues are

- 1 resolved.
- 2 In this particular project we had reached an
- 3 agreement with EPA because of the circumstances here
- 4 that they would allow the FDOC to go forward separate
- 5 from the resolution of the biology issues, and they are
- 6 attempting to abide by that agreement even though in
- 7 other cases they have gone the other way. But in our
- 8 most recent discussions with them, they still have some
- 9 concerns about the ability mechanically to separate out
- 10 the PSD issues from the state DOC issues, and so they
- 11 are working with us to try to resolve their concerns.
- We've had several telephone conversations
- 13 with them about their concerns and about ways we can
- 14 resolve the issue in this particular case.
- 15 Unfortunately, those discussions are still ongoing. We
- 16 expect to have another telephone conference with EPA in
- 17 a couple of weeks, and we hope that we'll be able to
- 18 handle this in a way that will be satisfactory to
- 19 everyone.
- 20 One possible solution is that the Fish and
- 21 Wildlife Service will complete its biology assessment in
- 22 time for the FDOC to go forward as scheduled. So if
- 23 that happens, basically all the discussions we are
- 24 having will be moot, and we are all hoping for that
- 25 outcome since EPA has some serious concerns. However,

- 1 if that doesn't happen, we'll have to come up with a
- 2 different alternative so that the district can proceed
- 3 to issue its FDOC separate from the PSD permit. I hope
- 4 that all makes sense.
- 5 MS. GEFTER: What sort of time line are you
- 6 looking at?
- 7 MR. OGATA: Time line for what?
- 8 MS. GEFTER: For resolving this with EPA.
- 9 MR. OGATA: As I said, we hope to have
- 10 another phone call with them in about two weeks.
- 11 They're supposed to do some research on their side and
- 12 they're supposed to contact us when they're ready to
- 13 talk to us again.
- 14 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Mr. Ogata, I would ask
- 15 that -- and I'll talk to Ms. Gefter about how we want to
- 16 handle this formally, but we need to have an
- 17 understanding of the results of that conversation
- 18 because the committee is going to be very concerned
- 19 about the repercussions on the scheduling should the
- 20 federal agencies decide to head off in a certain
- 21 direction, and this committee will want to input to the
- 22 federal agencies on that question.
- 23 So I don't think it necessitates an order,
- 24 Ms. Gefter, you tell me, but we would like the results
- 25 of that conversation reported to the committee so the

- 1 committee can reach a determination whether or not we
- 2 need to do something.
- 3 MR. OGATA: I think we'll be very happy to
- 4 file a segment about the summary of our conversation and
- 5 the resolution of that when it happens. As I said, we
- 6 are discussing this particular project, but obviously
- 7 EPA has in mind that we have several other projects that
- 8 they're involved with us on and so that has complicated
- 9 the resolution of this.
- 10 As I said, they understood that they have an
- 11 agreement with us on this particular project that is
- 12 somewhat contrary to the position they are taking and
- 13 most of the other siting cases before us now, before the
- 14 commission now. So that's why this one has become kind
- 15 of a sticky problem for them.
- 16 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: In fact, because the
- 17 issue may involve multiple cases, it would be suggested
- 18 that you report to the commission siting committee
- 19 rather than or in addition to the case siting committee
- 20 so the full commission can hear it as a procedural
- 21 issue.
- MR. OGATA: That's fine. We had certainly
- 23 intended to report to the siting committee on the
- 24 general issue, and as I said, we'll be happy to provide
- 25 a summary of what our resolution is for this particular

- 1 case.
- 2 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Thank you.
- 3 MS. GEFTER: Ms. Segner, I wanted to go over
- 4 the timing with you over the EIR that was issued on
- 5 Rule 27, and you were suggesting that the 30-day comment
- 6 period would be ending the beginning of August. And
- 7 then we have staff's PSA which would also be available
- 8 sometime the beginning of August, and then you had
- 9 mentioned the comment period ended on the PDOC
- 10 yesterday. All of these events are occurring at the
- 11 same time.
- 12 First of all, are you aware of comments from
- 13 the California Air Resources Board and EPA on the PDOC
- 14 and how do those fold into comments on the EIR, which
- 15 the comment period ends on August 1st, and then will all
- 16 of those comments then be addressed by staff in the PSA
- 17 and then what does that look like for finalizing the
- 18 FDOC?
- 19 MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner, PG&E Generating.
- 20 PG&E Generating's view is that the PDOC comments as well
- 21 as the comments on the EIR are FDOC issues. They are
- 22 not related to the timing of the issuance of the PSA.
- 23 What has determined the timing of the PSA on the air
- 24 selection was the issuance of the PDOC which was 45 days
- 25 after that. So the EIR issues as well as the PDOC

- 1 comments are not tied to the PSA or the air issues.
- 2 Regarding the comments that we know of on the
- 3 EIR, I am not aware of comments on the EIR. There have
- 4 been comments. I have not seen the comments.
- 5 Regarding the PDOC, I do know that EPA did
- 6 submit comments yesterday. I believe Eileen Allen was
- 7 cc'd on the comments as well and, you know, our view is
- 8 that the comments are issues that we can certainly work
- 9 with agencies through and did not see anything that was
- 10 significantly going to hinder the time line.
- 11 MS. GEFTER: Well, with the offsets pending
- 12 what sort of comments did you receive from EPA?
- 13 Summarize for us what they said.
- 14 MS. SEGNER: In terms of all the offsets, the
- 15 group related to the offsets from the EPA, their
- 16 comments are we do not expect a -- I'm sure there will
- 17 be some comments from EPA occur, but our expectation is
- 18 that the comments will be minimal from those agencies
- 19 because EPA has been very involved in the creation of
- 20 the MERC framework. So what we're interested to see is
- 21 in terms of what the comments are from the public on the
- 22 EIR, and certainly that will be the relevant factor.
- 23 MS. GEFTER: And what would the Applicant's
- 24 optimistic time line be for the issuance of the FDOC?
- MS. SEGNER: I think the end of August is

- 1 probably realistic, is a realistic time line. You know,
- 2 we see that the issues are coming together, and it's
- 3 really an issue of how long it takes the Air District to
- 4 pool together the various comments and issue the FDOC.
- 5 So I believe that 30 days after the public comment
- 6 period is a typical time line.
- 7 MS. GEFTER: And based on what staff
- 8 indicated, there may be some delay in that if the EPA
- 9 requires the PSD to wait until you have a Section 7
- 10 biological opinion.
- MS. SEGNER: Maybe in terms of an update on
- 12 the biology issues, EPA initiated Section 7 consultation
- 13 on July the 6th.
- 14 MS. GEFTER: Right.
- MS. SEGNER: And our anticipation is that the
- 16 biological opinion will be issued the middle of
- 17 September. So we don't see that there's -- we don't see
- 18 a huge timing concern at this point. We think these
- 19 issues will work out, and we certainly see a big effort
- 20 from all the agencies to make that happen as well.
- MS. GEFTER: And we're going to go into the
- 22 biological resources discussion in just a moment. I
- 23 wanted to ask if there were any agency representatives
- 24 here, particularly from the Air District at this point,
- 25 who had comments on the process. We were going to hold

- 1 public comments till the end of the entire presentation.
- 2 So at this point we'll move forward on biology.
- 3 MR. OGATA: Excuse me, Ms. Gefter. This is
- 4 Jeff Ogata, CEC staff counsel. I'd like to report on my
- 5 conversation with the Air District since they are not
- 6 here just to let you know. I believe that talking to
- 7 the county counsel for the Air District that their
- 8 position is that the FDOC is required by their rules and
- 9 by state rules to be issued. So staff is basically in
- 10 agreement with the district about the timing of the FDOC
- 11 notwithstanding this dispute with EPA.
- 12 So I believe if the district were here today
- 13 they would say to you that they are planning on issuing
- 14 the FDOC according to the time line that's been set
- 15 forth by Ms. Segner. So as I said, we do have an issue
- 16 that we have to resolve, but the district's position now
- 17 is that they are planning to issue an FDOC and have that
- 18 contain a number of caveats that EPA would like to see
- 19 about notices to the public regarding the public's right
- 20 to comment on the PSD permit and things like that.
- MS. GEFTER: Thank you. Let's proceed on
- 22 biologic resources.
- MS. SEGNER: The biology time line is as
- 24 follows: The biological assessment was submitted on
- 25 April 26th. The Section 7 consultation was initiated by

- 1 the EPA on July 6th, and we anticipate the U.S. Fish and
- 2 Wildlife has committed and will issue their biological
- 3 opinion in early September of 2000. Certainly that is
- 4 the path that we are actively pursuing, and the
- 5 California Fish and Game has 30 days after the U.S. Fish
- 6 and Wildlife to adopt the biological opinions. That
- 7 means early October of 2000. That concludes our update
- 8 on the biology issues.
- 9 MS. GEFTER: We received a copy of the letter
- 10 from the Fish and Wildlife Service to the EPA. That was
- 11 a letter dated July 13th, and in that letter they
- 12 indicate a date of November 22nd, 2000, which would be
- 13 the outside limit that they can file their biological
- 14 opinion.
- 15 What is your indication that they would be
- 16 able to get it to you by September 1st?
- 17 MR. CHILSON: Bill Chilson, PG&E Generating.
- 18 We have been at several workshops over the last few
- 19 months with the Fish and Wildlife Service, and they have
- 20 continued as recently as this morning to commit to
- 21 getting the biological opinion out in September -- I'm
- 22 sorry, excuse me -- in July.
- MS. SEGNER: It's September.
- MR. CHILSON: I have it right here. Yes,
- 25 September, September 1.

- 1 MS. GEFTER: There's also a paragraph in the
- 2 letter I referred to, July 13th from the Fish and
- 3 Wildlife to the EPA where they are reminding the EPA
- 4 that the ESA, Endangered Species Act, requires that,
- 5 quote, "Initiation of formal consultation with federal
- 6 action agency make no irreversible or irretrievable
- 7 commitment to resources that limits future options." I
- 8 read that to say that the EPA can't issue a PSD permit
- 9 until they receive a biological opinion. Is that --
- 10 MR. CHILSON: That's not been a topic in our
- 11 workshops. Our workshops have been focused on getting
- 12 the resources evaluated and mitigation or any other
- 13 impacts.
- 14 MS. GEFTER: I would ask Mr. Thompson to tell
- 15 us what his view is on what that paragraph means. It's
- on Page 2.
- 17 MR. THOMPSON: I fear you're catching me off
- 18 guard. We don't have a copy of that letter.
- 19 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Mr. Thompson, what I'd
- 20 ask you to do is go ahead and take it back and read
- 21 verbatim the paragraph that Ms. Gefter is referencing.
- 22 It will give you time to think about it.
- MR. THOMPSON: I fear I may need more time
- 24 than that. Let me quote from this letter of July 13th
- 25 logged in on July 19th from Nancy Gilbert under the

- 1 letterhead of the US Department of Fish and Wildlife to
- 2 Mr. Geraldo Rios of the US/EPA Region 9. The first full
- 3 paragraph on the second page reads, "As a reminder, the
- 4 act requires that after initiation of formal
- 5 consultation, the federal action agency make no
- 6 irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resource
- 7 that limits future options. This practice ensures that
- 8 agency actions do not preclude the formulation or
- 9 implementation of reasonable or prudent alternatives
- 10 that avoid jeopardizing continued existence of
- 11 endangered or threatened species or destroying or
- 12 modifying habitats."
- MS. GEFTER: Would you say that that
- 14 paragraph is subject to interpretation by the reader or
- 15 are they sending a message?
- 16 MR. THOMPSON: Well, I'm not exactly sure. I
- 17 will make this observation, that I have had enough years
- 18 of practice before agencies to be very weary of one
- 19 lawyer's interpretation of what an agency writes in a
- 20 letter, and I think that I would be very hesitant to
- 21 tell you what they mean in plain English when it's not
- 22 crystal clear from the letter.
- MS. GEFTER: Okay. Well, I just wanted to
- 24 bring it to everyone's attention. I noted it was
- 25 docketed and served on the parties, and it's something

- 1 that we're looking at too because we understand the
- 2 Applicant's optimistic view on how this process is going
- 3 to go, but when we see that kind of language, we're
- 4 wondering what is intended, so just to alert everybody
- 5 to consider that concern of the Fish and Wildlife
- 6 Service.
- 7 MR. THOMPSON: We appreciate that and we will
- 8 evaluate this. I would point out in the last paragraph
- 9 of the letter it refers the reader if they have any
- 10 questions to call Mr. Hazard who was in our workshop
- 11 this morning. So we are at least in contact with the
- 12 individual that we should be talking to, and we will
- 13 take it upon ourselves to try to get a clearer
- 14 explanation of what they mean by that.
- 15 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. All right. Are
- 16 there any other comments on the -- we're going to have
- 17 staff's comments on biological resources.
- MS. ALLEN: Staff has received that letter
- 19 and I asked that it be placed in the docket.
- 20 Did you receive it via my placing it in the
- 21 docket?
- MS. GEFTER: Yes.
- 23 MS. ALLEN: All right. We try to bring you
- 24 into the loop as always.
- 25 Staff held a workshop this morning where

- 1 various agencies participating in the biological review
- 2 process were present as well as several members of the
- 3 public. It was a productive workshop where we continued
- 4 discussion between the staff and agencies and the
- 5 Applicant on mitigation options for the endangered quino
- 6 checkerspot butterfly.
- 7 Staff also had a number of comments for the
- 8 Applicant on their biological resources, monitoring,
- 9 implementation, and something else that starts with "im"
- 10 plan. So staff went through their various comments page
- 11 by page.
- 12 The Applicant and the agencies are discussing
- 13 the Applicant's proposed impact compensation and
- 14 endowment fund and who would be the custodian of that
- 15 fund. Discussions are underway with a local group
- 16 called the Environmental Land Trust. A representative
- 17 of the Environmental Land Trust was at the workshop this
- 18 morning.
- 19 And then I concur with the Applicant's
- 20 statement that Fish and Wildlife Service intends to file
- 21 its biological opinion in early September. I don't know
- 22 that I would say the 1st. They did express some
- 23 interest in the Applicant's proposed gas line Route 2B
- 24 in that there are some resources along that route that
- 25 they are interested in. The butterfly has been spotted

- 1 along that route and then the associated plants the
- 2 butterfly larva eats. So the Fish and Wildlife Services
- 3 is interested in that route.
- 4 We did everything we could to make it clear
- 5 that the Applicant had fully included that route as part
- 6 of the AFC. So the Applicant has not treated that route
- 7 as a dormant back burner item. So we're working with
- 8 the Fish and Wildlife Service on their taking that route
- 9 seriously too.
- 10 After I expressed this concern, one of their
- 11 staff said, "Well, don't get worried that it's going to
- 12 affect our filing the biological opinion." So they're
- 13 thinking about how they need to follow through on their
- 14 promised date. That concludes my remarks for biology.
- MS. GEFTER: Thank you. Is there any
- 16 representative of the Fish and Wildlife or from the Fish
- 17 and Game? All right. We're going to move on to
- 18 questions regarding traffic and transportation.
- 19 Okay. We have one question before we move
- 20 on.
- 21 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: Yes. I just have one
- 22 question for staff. It appears that the U.S. Fish and
- 23 Wildlife is saying one thing and putting in print
- 24 something else. I think it would be helpful if we can
- 25 make contact with them and make a clarifying document as

- 1 to what their intention or time line is for the record
- 2 because they do have something that's been docketed yet
- 3 they're saying a lot of things off line. So just to
- 4 clear it up, I'd like to see something in the record
- 5 that they want to move forward with this time line.
- 6 MS. ALLEN: We'd be happy to clarify that,
- 7 put something in the record. I think that November date
- 8 relates to a statutory timing deadline that they have,
- 9 and they have said that they're interested in getting
- 10 the biological opinion out earlier than their rather
- 11 generous statutory deadline which is something like
- 12 180 days.
- 13 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: Okay. That's what
- 14 they had said?
- 15 MS. ALLEN: Okay. Mr. Ogata has clarified
- 16 that they have 90 days. So that's half of that time.
- 17 MR. OGATA: Just to add my two cents on this
- 18 as well, if you read this letter carefully, it points
- 19 out that they have had the AFC since August 10th, 1999.
- 20 And so the Fish and Wildlife Service has been aware of
- 21 this project for a long time. They've been working with
- 22 the Otay Mesa folks and our staff for a long time.
- 23 So basically the official start consultation
- 24 was in some ways a formality that, of course, is
- 25 required, but it's not like they are just starting their

- 1 analysis now. So again, they've reserved the right to
- 2 use up their whole 90 days which would take them out to
- 3 November 22nd, but it also states that with the
- 4 continued cooperation and coordination, we also
- 5 anticipate that our biological opinion can be completed
- 6 well in advance of the November 22nd deadline.
- 7 So they've been telling us for many months
- 8 now that they intend to have this biological opinion
- 9 completed by September 1st. That has not changed, which
- 10 again, in all candor, is unusual in my experience in
- 11 working with them recently. We very rarely get a date
- 12 that we can rely upon, and they've been telling us that
- over the course of several months. So I think we are
- 14 somewhat assured that that's a pretty firm date.
- Now again, having said that, at the workshop
- 16 this morning they had some additional concerns that I'm
- 17 sure PG&E Gen will work very diligently to address, but
- 18 we can certainly ask them to put something in writing to
- 19 us that will confirm that other deadline. My suspicion
- 20 is they may be reluctant to do that because they do have
- 21 until November 22nd if they really need to. So we'll be
- 22 happy to ask them for that.
- 23 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: Well, as long as
- 24 there's a firm date in there, in the letter, then I
- 25 withdraw my request, but writing one thing and saying

- 1 something else is not -- my comfort level goes way down
- 2 with that, but if there's a date there and staff is
- 3 comfortable with it, I'm fine with that.
- 4 MR. OGATA: As I said, they've been telling
- 5 us that date for quite a while and, you know, looking at
- 6 this letter, then certainly people on the outside will
- 7 look at this and question it. It has a lot of fudge
- 8 language in it.
- 9 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: I'm not comfortable
- 10 with fudge.
- MR. OGATA: Yes, but I'm not sure that's
- 12 unusual however. And my two cents on the paragraph that
- 13 you asked about is that I believe this is standard
- 14 language with respect to federal action, making sure no
- 15 irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources,
- 16 that's I believe standard language. I think I will even
- 17 go out on a limb and say I think that's even in the
- 18 regulations as a requirement. So they're probably just
- 19 quoting the regulation back to EPA as part of their
- 20 formal letter.
- 21 MS. GEFTER: Okay. Thank you. Let's move on
- 22 to traffic and transportation.
- MR. RAY: Robert Ray with URS Corporation.
- 24 We had a meeting this morning with Caltrans and we
- 25 presented the results of an ILD analysis that has to do

- 1 with looking at the interlaying volumes and backup
- 2 associated with construction and operation of the
- 3 project.
- 4 There was a conference call that occurred on
- 5 June 5th that involved Energy Commission staff,
- 6 Caltrans, and the county. The Applicant was unable to
- 7 participate in that conference call because there wasn't
- 8 time to have a public notice before the meeting. So I
- 9 coordinated with Energy Commission staff and got the
- 10 information regarding the requirements and then we
- 11 contacted Caltrans.
- 12 This morning they clarified to a certain
- 13 degree what specifically they wanted. So there's a
- 14 little bit more analysis that needs to be done, but
- 15 basically what's happened is there's a concern, as
- 16 you're aware, I believe, of the intersection of
- 17 Interstate 905 and Otay Mesa Road for construction
- 18 traffic as well as potentially for truck traffic
- 19 associated with making that left turn at that
- 20 intersection. There's a sharp left turn.
- 21 So the Applicant has devised an alternate
- 22 route that's been presented to the agencies subject to
- 23 some additional studies on traffic counts that should
- 24 occur over the next week which we believe will confirm
- 25 the acceptability of the alternate route. Everyone at

- 1 the meeting this morning seemed to be amenable to that.
- 2 It looks like what we're going to do is
- 3 commit to construction traffic using an alternate route
- 4 which I could specify, I suppose for the record, right
- 5 now. Basically if you're going eastbound on SR 905 you
- 6 would -- instead of going all the way to Otay Mesa Road
- 7 and making a left turn, you would go south on La Media
- 8 and then you would go east on Airway Road. Then you
- 9 would go north on Sanyo Drive and get back on Otay Mesa
- 10 Road up to the site. Then for egress from the site you
- 11 would just follow that same route back.
- 12 So basically what we'd be doing is making a
- 13 commitment to not utilize the intersection that's of
- 14 concern, and that seemed to be amenable to the
- 15 participants that were at the meeting this morning, the
- 16 representatives both from Caltrans as well as from the
- 17 county and I assume to the Energy Commission staff as
- 18 well that were present.
- 19 So basically that was the one -- we had
- 20 already had a workshop on the PSA, and that was the one
- 21 remaining issue that was brought up in terms of a
- 22 traffic issue and I believe that was addressed this
- 23 morning with the resolution in terms of how we'll do the
- 24 balance of the studies just to confirm that there's no
- 25 problems with the alternate route either.

- 1 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Mr. Ray, from a traffic
- 2 perspective does this project have any growth-inducing
- 3 impact on the regional transportation system?
- 4 MR. RAY: We have not identified any
- 5 growth-inducing impacts of the project on traffic or
- 6 otherwise. Obviously there is going to be a short term
- 7 temporary impact during the construction time frame from
- 8 the construction traffic. In the long term there's an
- 9 operational work force of about 25 or 30 people with
- 10 some shifts that you need to consider in there.
- In terms of if you're talking about is the
- 12 project going to create other types of jobs or
- 13 development on Otay Mesa? Is that what you're getting
- 14 at?
- 15 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Generally, yes.
- 16 MR. RAY: We certainly have not identified
- 17 any such growth-inducement impacts in the AFC for
- 18 Otay Mesa associated with this project.
- 19 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Thank you.
- 20 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: The ultimate route
- 21 does it -- not being from San Diego, I'm not really sure
- 22 of the configuration, but does it impact any existing
- 23 communities? Habitats? I would assume -- let me ask
- 24 the question. Has an alternate route been analyzed by
- 25 staff?

- 1 MR. RAY: The alternate route was proposed in
- 2 our response to the Applicant's comments on the PSA and
- 3 it has been docketed with the Energy Commission. So
- 4 it's been available to Energy Commission staff. There
- 5 are no communities along the route. It's basically
- 6 pretty much undeveloped. There are some warehouses and
- 7 some industrial facilities along some of these roads.
- 8 It's primarily undeveloped at this point in time.
- 9 It was mentioned this morning that it is
- 10 pretty much the truck route for truck traffic that's
- 11 going out to East Otay Mesa. Obviously there's a lot of
- 12 development that's proposed for the East Otay Mesa
- 13 region, and in the future we would expect based upon the
- 14 documents that we have seen from the county that there
- 15 would be more development, but we would assume that the
- 16 construction time frame for this project, should it go
- 17 forward, would be completed before most of that
- 18 development is completed. There aren't very many plans
- on the board that we're aware of for near time
- 20 developments along these roadways.
- 21 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: And there are existing
- 22 roads? We're not creating any new roads?
- MR. RAY: No, we are not.
- MS. GEFTER: Thank you.
- 25 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: What's the level of

- 1 service on the major transportation route as proposed
- 2 now?
- 3 MR. RAY: Well, the LOS levels are identified
- 4 in the AFC. I don't have those off the top of my head.
- 5 They were discussed this morning. That's obviously
- 6 factored in. The ILD analysis looks at how much delay
- 7 you're going to have at the various intersections, and
- 8 we're going to go back and do -- because Caltrans had
- 9 not asked for all of that data for this alternate route,
- 10 when it was discussed this morning it was determined
- 11 that it would be prudent to look at each intersection
- 12 along the whole alternative route and we're going to do
- 13 that. We think it's going to show that there's not a
- 14 problem.
- 15 Basically the primary problem area is at the
- 16 intersection of 905 and Otay Mesa Road, and so these
- 17 other intersections are not heavily used. We would
- 18 expect that the LOS levels would be in acceptable range
- 19 and would remain there, and as part of our analysis
- 20 we'll be looking at that.
- 21 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Just let me ask staff
- 22 quickly, is that your understanding as well? Remind me
- 23 what the LOS levels are for the major intersection.
- MS. ALLEN: The original route went through
- 25 the intersection of State Route 905 and Otay Mesa Road,

- 1 and as that intersection is now with its current levels
- of traffic, it's close to Level F which is unacceptable.
- 3 So that's the examination of alternate routes. The
- 4 preliminary data for the alternate route area indicates
- 5 that it's well into the acceptable zone, I think at
- 6 Level C or B.
- 7 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: What standard has the
- 8 county adopted? Do you know? Have they adopted a
- 9 county standard of B or C or D?
- 10 MR. RAY: Typically as long as you can remain
- 11 at Level C or above with your project it's deemed to be
- 12 acceptable.
- 13 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Okay. Are we talking
- 14 about San Diego County?
- MR. RAY: Yes.
- 16 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Okay. I'd like staff
- 17 to check and concur that San Diego County uses the level
- 18 of service C to determine adequacy.
- 19 MR. RAY: Just something you might want to
- 20 remember is that we've got two intersections of this
- 21 alternate route that are under the jurisdiction of the
- 22 city. You've got at least one that's under the
- 23 jurisdiction of Caltrans, and the balance are under the
- 24 jurisdiction of the county.
- 25 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Okay. Thank you.

- 1 MR. RAY: The one intersection, the
- 2 intersection of 905 and La Media, the one where we turn
- 3 off of 905 or back onto 905, Caltrans pointed out this
- 4 morning it was recently upgraded and they would perceive
- 5 no problems with that intersection. It was widened,
- 6 signalized, and built for much more capacity than it's
- 7 currently carrying.
- 8 MS. GEFTER: I'd like to ask staff to make a
- 9 presentation, but I also have a question which is
- 10 regarding the FSA on traffic and transportation, whether
- 11 the FSA will include this new information that you
- 12 discussed today at the workshop plus the Applicant's
- 13 proposals for the alternate route.
- 14 MS. ALLEN: Our traffic and transportation
- 15 analyst will be incorporating that into the work he will
- 16 be doing on his final analysis in August.
- 17 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. It is now staff's
- 18 turn to proceed on this topic.
- 19 MS. ALLEN: I don't have much to add to what
- 20 Mr. Ray told us. It is ironic that within the small
- 21 area of that intersection and the surrounding area we
- 22 have three traffic entities, Caltrans, the City of
- 23 San Diego, and the county. So we'll be coordinating the
- 24 information and the requirements as noted by
- 25 Commissioner Laurie with all three entities.

- 1 MS. GEFTER: Thank you.
- 2 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Well, on the question
- 3 of intersection improvements, if any are intended to be
- 4 required, is it staff's intention to require the
- 5 Applicant to provide a pro rata share improvement cost
- 6 or something beyond that or are you not in a position to
- 7 offer comment on that question?
- 8 MS. ALLEN: I think that when this project
- 9 was first proposed there was a concept that the
- 10 Applicant would be subject to a fair share allotment
- 11 along with the other developers of projects in the area.
- 12 The county staff has told us that the other developers
- 13 of projects in the area are interested, but they aren't
- 14 coming forward in terms of finalizing their project
- 15 plans or being willing to put some funding together.
- 16 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Well, no, they are not
- 17 going to voluntarily jump up and down at that
- 18 opportunity.
- 19 MS. ALLEN: That's right.
- 20 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: What I would encourage,
- 21 I'd encourage staff and I would encourage the Applicant
- 22 to make requests of the appropriate governmental agency
- 23 for a reimbursement agreement to insure that no more
- 24 than pro rata share is ultimately required.
- 25 The other developers do not have to be at the

- 1 table today. I think it's common that other developers
- 2 hang back and see what happens to the first guy, but if
- 3 the first guy gets a reimbursement agreement, then those
- 4 that follow are going to be bound to it.
- 5 MS. ALLEN: Part of the challenge seems to
- 6 rest with Caltrans in that Caltrans has told the county
- 7 to come forward with a design plan reflecting all of the
- 8 developers in the area. So between trying to get
- 9 Caltrans and the county moving, I wondered whether it
- 10 would occur within the confines of this licensing
- 11 process, that we could be assured that that would be
- 12 underway. Things move slowly to the point where I don't
- 13 know that we could count on there being any actual plan
- 14 for improving the intersection.
- 15 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Okay. Well, then
- 16 that's going to pose a question, and I'm not going to
- 17 ask for a response now. However, if the evidence is
- 18 that a project requires an improvement, an
- 19 infrastructure improvement that has yet to be designed
- 20 and, therefore, the environmental consequences of the
- 21 improvement are not known, what ramifications does that
- 22 have on the underlying project? That is a CEQA
- 23 question, and that is something that we have to deal
- 24 with. Thank you.
- MS. GEFTER: Anything else on this topic?

- 1 MS. ALLEN: No.
- 2 MS. GEFTER: Okay. Thank you. As I said
- 3 earlier, we were going to try to get through these three
- 4 topics as quickly as we could so that we would have more
- 5 time for the discussion on gas pipeline capacity. So at
- 6 this point, unless there are any other comments on the
- 7 topics of air quality, biology, and traffic and
- 8 transportation, we're going to take a recess.
- 9 Mr. Claycond.
- 10 MR. CLAYCOND: I would make a comment on the
- 11 air quality. Back in January, January 25th at the
- 12 Energy Summit, Ms. Segner, and I've got the quote
- 13 somewhere, said that they would use the most advanced
- 14 technology in dealing with NOX problems. They're
- 15 proposing, as I understand it, internal combustion
- 16 engines that are called ICE, which is sort of a dirty
- 17 word, that are using methane natural gas to fire those
- 18 engines.
- Now, that is not the most advanced
- 20 technology. The most advanced technology would be
- 21 fuel-celled engines using hydrogen and they are
- 22 available. There are three hydrogen fuel-celled buses
- 23 running in Chicago right now, there are three in
- 24 Vancouver, and I'm sure they could negotiate to get a
- 25 fuel-celled engine for some, maybe even for the boats.

- 1 I just thought I'd point that out. That is the most
- 2 advanced technology. Any questions?
- 3 MS. GEFTER: I know that staff has prepared
- 4 an alternate analysis for the PSA, and I expect that
- 5 would also include some of the comments that you've
- 6 made. And perhaps in their final analysis they would
- 7 talk about your proposals.
- 8 Thank you. Any other questions or comments?
- 9 All right. Let's take a recess. We should be back here
- 10 let's say by 3:20. So it's a short recess.
- 11 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: 3:25.
- 12 MS. GEFTER: 3:25.
- 13 (Recess)
- 14 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Let the record reflect
- 15 that it is now 3:25. Ms. Gefter.
- MS. GEFTER: Before we move on to discussing
- 17 the gas pipeline capacity, I understand there is a
- 18 representative from the Air District here today.
- 19 Would you please come forward and introduce
- 20 yourself for the record?
- 21 MR. LAKE: Good afternoon. My name is
- 22 Michael Lake. I'm the chief of the insuring division
- 23 with the Air Pollution Control District.
- 24 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. We had discussed air
- 25 quality earlier today and we are going to end up

- 1 discussing Rule 69 at some point. So we hope that you
- 2 would stay through that discussion.
- 3 MR. LAKE: Sure.
- 4 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. We're going to now
- 5 move on to the discussion of the gas pipeline capacity
- 6 beginning with the Applicant.
- 7 MR. HANSCHEN: Thank you, Commissioners,
- 8 Madam Hearing Officer, members of the staff. I am Peter
- 9 Hanschen and as I am outside counsel to PG&E Generating
- 10 on some of the gas supply issues. What I thought I
- 11 would do here today is recap what was a relatively
- 12 lengthy and in depth discussion we had yesterday at the
- 13 staff report and give some additional information to you
- 14 at this time.
- Just kind of in terms of recapping, it's fair
- 16 to say, I think, that just at the present time with
- 17 SDG&E's existing load that SDG&E's gas capacity is
- 18 tight. There are situations, and Mr. Montoya, I'm sure,
- 19 will address this later, that perhaps where they've
- 20 started warning some of their non-core customers that
- 21 they may have to be curtailed even at the present time.
- Just in terms of background, when we look at
- 23 the SDG&E system and its customer composition, what it's
- 24 made up of, we have core customers which are
- 25 residential, small commercial, and core elect customers.

- 1 Then you have non-core customers, and those really can
- 2 be divided into a couple categories. They can be
- 3 non-core customers who choose to be interruptible, they
- 4 can be non-core customers who choose to take firm
- 5 service, and then even within that non-core category
- 6 there are distinctions made between those who generate
- 7 electricity versus those who use natural gas for other
- 8 purposes.
- 9 If we look at the SDG&E system today in terms
- 10 of just the electric generation load is that they do
- 11 have some co-generation on their system. We know that
- 12 Encina power plant or the old Encina power plant burns
- 13 natural gas. South Bay burns natural gas. There's now
- 14 some gas flowing across the border into Mexico for
- 15 purposes of electric generation. All of these are
- 16 coming together now, and as I said, even at the present
- 17 time in the summer the system is getting tight.
- In terms of proposals to solve that, there's
- 19 really kind of a whole list of options that people have
- 20 to look at. Yesterday we had a presentation by
- 21 Mr. Henry Morris of the North Baja Pipeline, and he
- 22 talked about that their open season had just ended, at
- 23 least their subscriptions of interest for subscribing to
- 24 that pipeline. He said this is a 400 million a day
- 25 pipeline that runs into Northern Mexico. They have

- 1 expressions of interest of 900 million a day that had
- 2 been expressed. This pipeline at the present time has a
- 3 commencement of operations in March of 2000/2003.
- 4 We also heard a little bit, and as counsel to
- 5 the Applicant here stated, the Applicant is certainly
- 6 aware of this, is that SDG&E almost two weeks ago
- 7 announced their own open season for expressions of
- 8 interest for an expansion on their pipeline, and that
- 9 open season if you look at it, it was called for up to
- 10 200 million a day of expansion capability. I think the
- 11 time frame that SDG&E was looking at may have been in
- 12 the 2004 or 2005 --
- 13 MR. MONTOYA: Well, 2003 for the 70 million.
- 14 The 200 million, no commitment.
- MR. HANSCHEN: I was talking about, yes, the
- 16 200 million being a little bit later than that. But
- 17 within that 200 million there is also an increment of
- 18 70 million that actually was identified in the resource
- 19 plan that they had filed in the last proceeding before
- 20 the CPUC, and that pipeline capacity, additional
- 21 pipeline capacity, would add 70 million a day to the
- 22 SDG&E system which is about a 570 a day system now at
- 23 the present time.
- 24 So it adds 15 percent of additional capacity
- 25 to that system for about \$20 million. It's relatively

- 1 cheap expansion and it can be done very, very quickly.
- 2 It's got a time frame that certainly can be brought on
- 3 line within a period of a year or so, I think is
- 4 probably -- Mr. Montoya probably can answer that a
- 5 little bit more, but it's cheap expansibility and it's
- 6 relatively minor construction to add a 15 percent
- 7 increment of capacity to that system.
- 8 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Let me ask you a
- 9 question. Does that apply to the entire system then?
- 10 Is there a system like that?
- 11 MR. HANSCHEN: The way I understand it is
- 12 that actually some work would be done on So Cal
- 13 Line 6900 which would allow additional flow to the SDG&E
- 14 system, and there's actually no physical upgrades that
- 15 are needed on the SDG&E system to obtain that.
- 16 A third option when you look at it is if gas
- 17 supplies are tight, what might you do here, and that is
- 18 putting aside the fact that there are pipeline
- 19 additions, either capacity additions or whole new
- 20 pipelines as potential options on this. Once you look
- 21 at SDG&E's Rule 14 -- because that really is a way of
- 22 how these pipeline curtailments when there's capacity
- 23 curtailments are administered on the SDG&E system, and
- 24 this is a rule that's been on file with the CPUC and
- 25 been approved with the CPUC for some period of time.

- I thought I would go through it because it
- 2 was a rule that was put into place that was really prior
- 3 to the time that we had the sale of the generating
- 4 plants by SDG&E. It was when SDG&E was a -- it was
- 5 really put into place when SDG&E was a vertical-type
- 6 electric company, and it may be that this is a time when
- 7 we should look very closely at Rule 14 on whether it
- 8 should be changed, whether there are ways it could be
- 9 administered in a way that it might be a little more
- 10 advantageous to improve the reliability of supply to the
- 11 customers.
- 12 Essentially the way Rule 14 works now is when
- 13 customers come onto the system is they have to designate
- 14 the gas service level that they want, and I'm
- 15 predominantly talking about non-core customers here. So
- 16 a non-core customer can come on and say, "Well, I'd like
- 17 to take interruptible service," in which case they would
- 18 sign a contract for one month, that's all that's
- 19 required for interruptible service, or they can opt for
- 20 firm service in which there is a two-year commitment to
- 21 be made.
- 22 Ironically the rates are identical for these
- 23 two customers. There's no rate difference between the
- 24 customers. It's simply a matter of contract length.
- 25 There's some taker pay requirements with the two-year

- 1 contract, and they factor into the sequence of
- 2 curtailment. Interruptible customers are off first, and
- 3 firm non-core customers would come next in line. Then
- 4 lastly would be only when all of the firm non-core
- 5 customers have been curtailed would you think even then
- 6 about getting to the core customers. I think SDG&E has
- 7 to actually go to the PUC and request a gas emergency
- 8 before they can curtail core customers.
- 9 If we just look at the firm non-core portion
- 10 of this, and I say if we just look at that because, in
- 11 fact, SDG&E has no interruptible customers on their
- 12 system. Of all of their non-core load, no one has opted
- 13 for interruptible load. It used to be that the Encina
- 14 plant and the South Bay plant would take at an
- 15 interruptible service level, but with the divestiture of
- 16 those plants, the new owners have opted for firm
- 17 service.
- 18 So what was a cushion at one time of Encina
- 19 and South Bay, both of which have alternate fuel
- 20 capabilities being on the system, they have now opted
- 21 from interruptible service down to firm service. Any
- 22 new customer coming on to the SDG&E system who opts for
- 23 firm service would be treated exactly the same as Encina
- 24 and South Bay.
- 25 In that respect a CFE recently signing up for

- 1 firm service indirectly through gas (inaudible), but
- 2 signing up for firm service with SDG&E is now treated on
- 3 the exact par as Encina and South Bay even though those
- 4 plants have been traditionally customers for years and
- 5 years when they were owned by SDG&E. Otay Mesa coming
- 6 on will also be treated exactly the same, and this is
- 7 really a fallout of the utility's obligation to serve
- 8 and not to discriminate among classes of customers. So
- 9 new people come on. They're put in exactly the same
- 10 position as those who have been on in the past.
- 11 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: So if there is an equal
- 12 obligation to serve and Parties A through Z have signed
- 13 up for firm commitment is any priority given when
- 14 there's emergency curtailment or otherwise based upon
- 15 data sign-up?
- 16 MR. HANSCHEN: No. Based in terms of time on
- 17 the system, no. There's nothing that is time sensitive
- 18 in that respect. What happens instead is, this is the
- 19 next portion of the existing Rule 14, is non-firm
- 20 customers are put on one of two lists. List 1 is for
- 21 electric generation with the electric generators first,
- 22 co-generators at the end of the list. List 2 is for all
- other non-firm -- excuse me. I may have said non-firm.
- 24 meant firm non-core. Firm non-core customers who are
- 25 not electric generators.

- 1 So there's two lists. How you're put on that
- 2 list is up to SDG&E. It is not a public document
- 3 because actually your falling on that list, having that
- 4 knowledge may have some commercial sensitivity to it.
- 5 MS. SEGNER: And it's also by meter.
- 6 MR. HANSCHEN: And it's by meter, that's
- 7 right. If you have a meter in each one of your units
- 8 and you're electric generated, you can occur on
- 9 different portions of that list. If you do, I don't
- 10 know if that's the case because SDG&E maintains the list
- 11 and puts the list together in a randomly done way.
- 12 What happens when there is -- I guess the
- 13 next step is SDG&E is then allowed to assign curtailment
- 14 blocks on each list so that if there's a list of
- 15 generators and they feel that from an operational
- 16 standpoint it's best to curtail in blocks of 25 million
- 17 a day, they assign blocks around either one generator or
- 18 two generators that would make up a curtailment unit, a
- 19 curtailment block.
- 20 They do the same on List 2. Well, let me say
- 21 on List 2, the total amount of load on List 2 is only
- 22 about 15 million a day, that being SDG&E's firm non-core
- 23 customers who are not electric generators. It's not a
- large load.
- When curtailment occurs SDG&E, depending on

- 1 how deep the curtailment will be, will take Block 1 here
- 2 on List 1 and if necessary Block 1 on List 2. If they
- 3 have to go deeper, it's Block 2 on List 1, Block 2 on
- 4 List 2. Once you're curtailed, you go to the bottom of
- 5 the list.
- 6 Now, when you're curtailed you may get a
- 7 phone call from SDG&E the night before saying, "We think
- 8 we might have to curtail tomorrow. So get ready because
- 9 we may take you off the system." And while it's not
- 10 written in Rule 14, I understand from Mr. Thorp's
- 11 presentation yesterday is you're given about 90 minutes
- 12 to get off the system if you're a non-core customer.
- 13 So you don't know where you are on the list,
- 14 when your number is up, but you could get a phone call
- and 90 minutes later you're off the system and have to
- 16 curtail your load.
- 17 MR. MONTOYA: Can I interject? You do know
- 18 where you are on the list. That information is made
- 19 available to each customer. You are correct in saying
- 20 that the entire list is not public information, but each
- 21 customer knows where they stand on the list so that they
- 22 can negotiate position. There's an ability to do that.
- 23 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Sir, can you state your
- 24 name for the record, please.
- MR. MONTOYA: Oh, I'm sorry. Ben Montoya,

- 1 San Diego Gas & Electric.
- 2 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: Ben, if I could follow
- 3 up, you said negotiate your place on the list?
- 4 MR. MONTOYA: Yes.
- 5 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: How does that work?
- 6 MR. MONTOYA: Do you want to address that?
- 7 MR. HANSCHEN: I can get to it. Rule 14 has
- 8 a provision in it that allows customers who are subject
- 9 to curtailments to negotiate among themselves either to
- 10 trade curtailments with each other, to trade portions on
- 11 the list, to revamp the list. I mean, there is a
- 12 commercial ability to trade your curtailments written
- 13 right into Rule 14.
- 14 MR. TOMASHEFSKY: Let me ask you one
- 15 additional question just going back to it. You said
- 16 that there was 15 million a day attributed to List 2.
- Do you have a corresponding number for List 1
- 18 and can you break that out between the electric
- 19 generation and the co-gen portion?
- 20 MR. HANSCHEN: I personally can't in terms of
- 21 List 1, what the MDQs of the electric generators are. I
- 22 think the total list for electric generation is -- I
- 23 think the divested UEG is about 379 million a day MDQ.
- 24 That does not include a CFE load and the non-core
- 25 co-generation is about 75 million a day.

- 1 MR. MONTOYA: Ben Montoya, SDG&E. Actually,
- 2 those are based on average summer load numbers. And I
- 3 don't have that exact breakdown, but it is a lot larger
- 4 than 15 million, let's put it that way, but I don't have
- 5 that number.
- 6 MR. TOMASHEFSKY: Okay. Thank you.
- 7 MR. HANSCHEN: I think I left off in trading
- 8 the curtailments. I guess the other thing I'd like to
- 9 add is that the SDG&E system in some respects is a
- 10 little bit unique compared to some of the other
- 11 utilities in the state, PG&E and So Cal Gas, in that
- 12 they don't have storage on their system. It is very
- 13 much a pack and draft system. They load up the
- 14 pipeline, compress it up in periods when requirements
- 15 are low, and then they draw down, they draft the
- 16 pipeline pack during periods of high demand.
- So for SDG&E in operating their system one of
- 18 the important periods is to be able to give them time to
- 19 pack up their system again, and generally I think that
- 20 occurs during the evening hours and then it's drawn down
- 21 during more peak usage on their system.
- One of the things that we think should be
- 23 explored as a potential resolution of some of this
- 24 tightness of capacity on the SDG&E system is, one,
- 25 taking a look at Rule 14 itself. This all or nothing

- 1 rotating block curtailment portion we're not quite too
- 2 sure really fits the operating pattern of electric
- 3 generators.
- 4 Our feeling would be that perhaps one of the
- 5 things that might be better explored is some sort of a
- 6 pro rata curtailment among the electric generators so
- 7 that instead of taking the full -- if they're saying
- 8 there's a requirement to have a 25 million a day
- 9 curtailment, instead of one generator taking that full
- 10 curtailment to spread it among -- routably among the
- 11 generators and those who are on service lists or
- 12 curtailment List 1 so that you take only a small portion
- 13 of that.
- 14 This allows people who have multiple units to
- 15 make decisions that way. It also may allow generators
- 16 to generate during periods of high demand for
- 17 electricity when they want to be on the system and to
- 18 take their curtailments at a period of time when
- 19 requirements are not so great. And also then that would
- 20 allow SDG&E to load up their system because generally at
- 21 times when generators don't want to generate, which tend
- 22 to be in the late evening or early morning hours, that's
- 23 when they would be willing to take their curtailments if
- 24 they could. And that's exactly the same time when SDG&E
- 25 wants to be loading up their system so that they can

- 1 pack and draft it the next day. That's one option that
- 2 we think that we should be looking at. The other
- 3 option --
- 4 MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner, PG&E Generating.
- 5 Also our view is that under the existing Rule 14 that
- 6 such negotiations on pro rata curtailment is allowable
- 7 today without a change to Rule 14.
- 8 MR. HANSCHEN: It would I think just be a
- 9 matter of striking a deal with the other generators who
- 10 would be subject to curtailment and using that provision
- 11 that was referenced about being able to negotiate the
- 12 curtailments.
- 13 The other thing that we think really needs
- 14 looking at which we're talking to SDG&E and the CPUC at
- 15 yesterday's meeting is the 70 million a day of the chief
- 16 expansibility on this system. \$20 million is a lot of
- 17 money to you and I, but in the realm of things that's a
- 18 pretty cheap insurance policy to put on a gas system.
- 19 If you can increase the capacity of the system by
- 20 15 percent for \$20 million, I'm not quite too sure I
- 21 know what the SDG&E rate base is, but I'm sure
- 22 \$20 million is a lot less than 15 percent of the total
- 23 gas rate base.
- I think it may actually have an advantageous
- 25 effect for all customer classes where you would have

- 1 additional throughput and because of additional
- 2 throughput you'd have more sharing of the revenue
- 3 requirement over the additional supply. These are the
- 4 things over the last few months that we've been talking
- 5 to SDG&E about, we've been talking to the other
- 6 generators about.
- 7 We're trying to work through this in coming
- 8 up to a resolution of this that we think would give a
- 9 rational approach to using a system right now that is
- 10 admittedly tight and still allow gas supply to the
- 11 various electric generators in a way that we think that
- 12 it can best be used and in a fashion and a timing that
- 13 we think it can best be used.
- 14 So those talks are ongoing. We would expect
- 15 them to continue with SDG&E and with Duke and Dynergy
- 16 and NRG. Sempra may want to bring in CFE into these
- 17 talks. We'd be happy for that to occur. As we say, CFE
- 18 is treated exactly the same as anyone else here. So if
- 19 there's going to be some sort of sharing of capacity on
- 20 this through a pro rata basis, we'd want CFE to be
- 21 involved in this. We think with that and with some of
- 22 the other pipeline options that are there, this isn't an
- 23 insurmountable problem at all.
- MS. TOWNSEND-SMITH: Could I ask just a quick
- 25 question? You mentioned yesterday you were talking

- 1 about a rotating block. Is the rotating block described
- 2 under pro rata or is that something that --
- 3 MR. HANSCHEN: The rotating block is the
- 4 status quo right now. Rule 14 is set up on the rotating
- 5 block. Pro rata would be the proposed change to
- 6 Rule 14. Either that would be done formally through a
- 7 filing of a new Rule 14 or by agreement between the
- 8 different firm non-core customers?
- 9 MR. THORP: Just as a point of clarification
- 10 on the rotating block --
- 11 MS. GEFTER: Please identify yourself.
- 12 MR. THORP: Mike Thorp from San Diego Gas &
- 13 Electric. Just as a point of clarification, the
- 14 rotating feature is that once you're curtailed and the
- 15 curtailment ends, then you go to the bottom of the
- 16 block.
- 17 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: But all of that is
- 18 negotiable between the curtailees?
- 19 MR. THORP: Certainly. Under our Rule 14 the
- 20 electric generators or other non-core customers can get
- 21 together and tell us that when it comes time for PG&E
- 22 Gen to be curtailed that we don't take PG&E Gen. We
- 23 take one of the other customers that they've got a
- 24 contractual arrangement with. That's currently
- 25 permitted under the rule with no limit.

- 1 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: What do you require
- 2 when you talk about the generators being able to get
- 3 together to reach an understanding? What do you require
- 4 as evidence that they have gotten together and to what
- 5 extent -- are these just two-party deals or are they
- 6 three-party deals? Under Rule 14 where it talks about
- 7 the ability to deal with curtailment issues, what's
- 8 required for an agreement?
- 9 MR. THORP: Under Rule 14 all the customers
- 10 who are involved must execute and give SDG&E a signed
- 11 written notice.
- 12 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Okay. So there must be
- 13 unanimous consent?
- MR. THORP: Correct.
- MR. HANSCHEN: I don't think that's actually
- 16 correct. Two customers could agree to trade
- 17 curtailments if they wanted to. Customer X could say,
- 18 "My block is up. I'll trade with you," if that was the
- 19 case, if we didn't go to a pro rata sharing.
- 20 MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner with PG&E Gen.
- 21 And it's also two meters. So if you have two units
- 22 within Otay Mesa, there could be agreements among those
- 23 units.
- 24 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Okay. So you can have
- 25 two-party agreements?

- 1 MR. THORP: Yes, Commissioner Laurie, you
- 2 can, but what we require for a two-party agreement is
- 3 that we have a written notice signed by those two
- 4 parties.
- 5 MS. GEFTER: I would like just as a point of
- 6 order here, we have two gentlemen from SDG&E and we have
- 7 two parties here from PG&E. I think that, you know, the
- 8 back and forth here is going to be rather confusing for
- 9 us on the record. So what I would prefer to hear is
- 10 PG&E's position and then we can move on to SDG&E's
- 11 position. Otherwise, we have a discussion rather than
- 12 information.
- 13 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Well, we keep asking
- 14 these questions.
- 15 MR. TOMASHEFSKY: Then I'll ask another
- 16 question. If two parties make a deal hypothetically
- 17 aren't they still subject to some sort of outage block
- 18 because the other customers on the firm list haven't
- 19 agreed to that type of arrangement? So, therefore, they
- 20 may be able to trade or negotiate some sort of
- 21 arrangement, but when their turn comes up, it would
- 22 still have to be curtailed in the context of the rest of
- 23 the list.
- 24 MR. HANSCHEN: I don't think that's the case.
- 25 If my turn is up and you're down in the Q and you're not

- 1 going to be curtailed, and I go to you and I say, "I'd
- 2 like you to take my curtailment for me and I'll" --
- 3 whatever I do to entice you to do that and you come in
- 4 and you take my curtailment, I'll go to the end of the
- 5 Q again and you'll stay where you are on this because I
- 6 assume SDG&E, you know, is not going to look behind the
- 7 transaction. They're just going to say, "Okay. Who
- 8 took that curtailment? Was there a notice given to them
- 9 that that occurred?"
- 10 All SDG&E wants is if they need 15 million a
- 11 day to come off their system, someone is coming off
- 12 their system. I don't think they care who does it and
- 13 our commercial transaction arrangements that we have to
- 14 allow us to switch places.
- MS. GEFTER: And then I would ask SDG&E
- 16 whether you agree with that?
- MR. THORP: Yes, we agree with that, that
- 18 that's how it works, and if a party -- if there's a
- 19 negotiation and one of the parties doesn't live up to
- 20 their side of the bargain, they don't curtail as they
- 21 said they would under their private agreement that they
- 22 provided to us, the party who is supposed to be
- 23 curtailed is the one who pays the penalties. Again, the
- 24 system is all set forth in this Rule 14 that we've got.
- MR. TOMASHEFSKY: And one other question.

- 1 You made a comment about negotiating a pro rata type of
- 2 arrangement and you suggested that that could be
- 3 something that's done without CPUC approval.
- 4 Is that the case?
- 5 MR. HANSCHEN: I think that is the case. I
- 6 see the implementation of a pro rata arrangement
- 7 among -- let's just say among all of the generators for
- 8 agreement purposes here -- as fitting within the
- 9 commercial negotiation exception or provision that's
- 10 written into that rule. We wouldn't change the rule to
- 11 make it a pro rata basis. That would take PUC approval
- 12 for the change of Rule 14, but it simply would allow us
- 13 to rely on the -- I don't have the paragraph right in
- 14 front of me. Let's see, Paragraph -- well, we would
- 15 simply rely on that portion of Rule 14 which allows the
- 16 parties to negotiate their curtailments, and I think
- 17 negotiating a pro rata curtailment is just one of the
- 18 commercial options that would be available to the
- 19 parties.
- 20 MS. GEFTER: Then hearing PG&E's position do
- 21 you want to wait and respond to that? Does SDG&E want
- 22 to respond to that now?
- MR. THORP: Certainly.
- MS. GEFTER: I'd like to hear from you now
- 25 because what I'm concerned about is in the transcript we

- 1 have comments from PG&E and then we have interspersed
- 2 comments from SDG&E. Since you're all sitting together,
- 3 I'd like to really clarify whose position is which and
- 4 so I'd like to hear SDG&E's position on this question
- 5 right now.
- 6 MR. THORP: Certainly. I think SDG&E agrees
- 7 with PG&E's characterization pro rata with one caveat.
- 8 We're talking about a pro rata -- let's say four
- 9 electric generators agree that instead of one being
- 10 curtailed for 20 that they each get curtailed for five.
- 11 I think that that's something that clearly was
- 12 contemplated or could be done under the existing rule.
- 13 Where I think we at least have to think
- 14 further about whether or not the change is within the
- 15 scope of the existing Rule 14 is when PG&E talks about
- 16 preemptive curtailment. I heard Mr. Hanschen mention
- 17 the idea that perhaps generators could be curtailed at
- 18 night rather than during the daytime, and I think our
- 19 position is that when we need to have 15 off the system,
- 20 we need to have 15 off the system. And so there may be
- 21 something that we could work on, but I think that's
- 22 still open for discussion.
- 23 MR. HANSCHEN: I'll try to keep the record
- 24 clear. Peter Hanschen for PG&E Generating. I agree
- 25 with what Mr. Thorp said here, and the important part is

- 1 when he's talking about 15 off the system, he doesn't
- 2 necessarily mean you're off the system all day. It may
- 3 be a relatively short period of time when suction
- 4 pressure on that pipeline is low or their pressures are
- 5 falling in the pipeline where they have to get you off
- 6 the system for a while and then they pack it back up.
- 7 So the curtailments may be relatively short
- 8 term on this, and as I say, what we still want to talk
- 9 with SDG&E about is the ability perhaps even when there
- 10 are curtailments, recognizing that there's operating
- 11 concerns also, is the timing of curtailments, if they
- 12 are going to curtail, whether they can be done at times
- 13 when generation is less required to satisfy electric
- 14 requirements.
- Our feeling is that just knowing how that
- 16 system works is that, in fact, may be the case, is that
- 17 some of the curtailments or the majority of curtailments
- 18 could be taken at a time when some of the electric
- 19 generators aren't going to be too interested in
- 20 generating to begin with because prices are very, very
- 21 low.
- MS. GEFTER: I'd like to move on to topics
- 23 that are particularly involved in this proceeding and
- 24 that would be the times when Encina and South Bay may
- 25 incur curtailment and they have to use fuel to produce

- 1 electricity and what the implications are with respect
- 2 to Rule 69 when these two power plants would be burning.
- 3 I would like to know what the Applicant's position is on
- 4 that because that is an issue that is before us.
- 5 MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner of PG&E
- 6 Generating. Under our pro rata curtailment it would be
- 7 each generator's choice on whether or not they would be
- 8 running during the off peak hours or not. Our position
- 9 is also that from a business standpoint running the
- 10 power plants during the off peak hours is probably an
- 11 economic risk that each generator will make on their own
- 12 on whether or not they want to be burning fuel oil or
- 13 not. The prices in the off peak market may not be high
- 14 enough to justify burning fuel or natural gas during
- 15 those hours.
- 16 MS. GEFTER: So that's the Applicant's
- 17 position on the concerns of Encina and South Bay?
- 18 MS. SEGNER: Our view is that the concerns on
- 19 the fuel oil issue is that with the pro rata curtailment
- 20 that many of the fuel oil concerns should be mitigated
- 21 significantly because the issue is the fuel burns during
- 22 the daytime rather than at night I imagine.
- 23 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: Can I follow up on
- 24 that? Right now we don't have pro rata curtailment. So
- 25 when you answered the question, you said you use

- 1 pro rata curtailment as an example, and I assume that
- 2 you're anticipating on getting that. We haven't heard
- 3 that from SDG&E yet.
- 4 MS. SEGNER: We've been in discussions with
- 5 other generators. We are committed to working with the
- 6 other generators to put together a business structure
- 7 that is in their best interests as well as our best
- 8 interests in working through the business terms. There
- 9 has been openness from the other generators on these
- 10 concepts.
- 11 The way the current rule is structured under
- 12 Rule 14 is a concept that no one is very excited about
- 13 just from a business standpoint. So there's a lot of
- 14 good business reasons, you know, why a pro rata
- 15 curtailment structure makes sense in a merchant power
- 16 plant market. So we're moving along those lines.
- 17 Certainly the other generators have been very
- 18 responsive, and we're encouraged by the level of
- 19 discussion that we've had with them. That's where we're
- 20 at right now.
- 21 MS. TOWNSEND-SMITH: So basically would
- 22 San Diego Gas & Electric require a legal agreement in
- 23 hand from you and the other -- from Encina and South Bay
- 24 that says that you're all going to agree to pro rata
- 25 curtailment?

- 1 MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner, PG&E Generating.
- 2 My understanding is that certainly the ultimate
- 3 expectation is there would need to be some type of legal
- 4 agreement to comply with Rule 14. So we are working to
- 5 work with the other generators to put something in place
- 6 that makes sense for all the generators in San Diego as
- 7 well as Mexico.
- 8 MS. TOWNSEND-SMITH: Is that done in with PUC
- 9 also? Does the PUC have any say on that at all?
- 10 MR. HANSCHEN: I don't think that those
- 11 agreements would have to be -- they may have to be filed
- 12 with the CPUC. I don't think they have to be approved
- 13 by the CPUC because it's an implementation of an
- 14 existing tariff provision. It's also possible I think
- 15 if there was a unanimity among the parties here is SDG&E
- 16 may just say, "Well, we'll change Rule 14 and we'll try
- 17 to make it final with the PUC." Instead of putting it
- 18 in contract form, you can have a regulatory change to
- 19 Rule 14. Either way it works it seems to me.
- 20 MS. GEFTER: I'd like to move on to other
- 21 issues because there are other options that PG&E may use
- 22 to obtain gas, and I'd like to talk about the other
- 23 options as well.
- 24 As we understand the options there is the
- 25 possibility of a tie-in to the proposed North Baja

- 1 Pipeline project. I'd like to find out what PG&E's view
- 2 is on that.
- 3 MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner, PG&E Generating.
- 4 Certainly our view is that additional capacity coming
- 5 into the San Diego area, whether it's from San Diego
- 6 Gas & Electric or from the North Baja Pipeline or other
- 7 competing pipelines, is a positive thing and a good long
- 8 term solution in San Diego. So we are exploring all
- 9 options in terms of where our best supply comes from and
- 10 moving along those lines.
- 11 MS. GEFTER: Would that also be described in
- 12 any sort of amendment to the AFC so that it be included
- 13 in the FSA?
- 14 MS. SEGNER: At this point we are seeking the
- 15 permitting of both -- the approval for both routes, gas
- 16 routes identified in our AFC. So our view is that the
- 17 staff has the sufficient information to analyze
- 18 environmental impacts of both routes and we are seeking
- 19 mitigation on both routes.
- 20 MS. GEFTER: And those routes are 2A and 2B?
- MS. SEGNER: Right.
- MS. GEFTER: Identify them for us.
- 23 MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner, PG&E Generating.
- 24 That is correct.
- 25 MS. GEFTER: Okay. 2A, describe it for us

- 1 just in summary. 2A is what route and 2B is what route?
- MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner, PG&E Generating.
- 3 2A is the route along Otay Mesa Road. It's about a
- 4 two-mile stretch to the Harvest tie-in and 2B is a route
- 5 directly south of our plant from our plant to the U.S.
- 6 Mexico border.
- 7 MS. GEFTER: And that would be a possible
- 8 tie-in then to the North Baja Pipeline project?
- 9 MS. SEGNER: That is correct.
- 10 MS. GEFTER: Okay. And so the other, 2A is
- 11 connecting to pipeline 2000; is that correct?
- 12 MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner, PG&E Generating.
- 13 That is correct.
- 14 MS. GEFTER: All right. And then if we go to
- 15 the new proposal by SDG&E to increase capacity by
- 16 connecting into Southern California Line 6900, is that
- 17 another option for PG&E?
- 18 MS. SEGNER: We are certainly interested in
- 19 continued discussions with San Diego Gas & Electric in
- 20 terms of fuel supply for Otay Mesa as well as
- 21 discussions with the North Baja Pipeline. So we are
- 22 considering any and all options for fuel supply.
- 23 MS. GEFTER: Is that option also going to be
- 24 included in your AFC that staff would look at?
- 25 MS. SEGNER: My view is that in terms of the

- 1 negotiations and our commercial agreement with San Diego
- 2 Gas & Electric that is not relevant to the AFC.
- 3 MS. GEFTER: Well, it's relevant though in
- 4 terms of where your pipeline is.
- 5 MS. SEGNER: Right, but we're seeking to
- 6 permit both routes, 2A and 2B.
- 7 MS. GEFTER: If you received 2A would that
- 8 ultimately be connected to the expanded SDG&E capacity
- 9 line or would it come through the same line?
- 10 MS. SEGNER: 2A is the tie-in to San Diego
- 11 Gas & Electric.
- MS. GEFTER: Right. So that would include
- 13 the So Cal Line 6900 expansion. That was my
- 14 understanding. SDG&E just put out their request for
- 15 customers open season because they want to expand
- 16 capacity 15 percent. Somebody, I'm not sure whether it
- 17 was SDG&E or your representative, mentioned So Cal
- 18 Line 6900.
- 19 MS. SEGNER: Our view is that Line 6900 would
- 20 not be -- we should not be part of the AFC review
- 21 process as that is expansions to enhance system
- 22 reliability. So it's not a part of the AFC.
- MS. GEFTER: At this point in time what is
- 24 the status of your proposed pipeline interconnection at
- 25 Lines 2A and 2B? Where are you on this topic?

- 1 MS. SEGNER: The North Baja Pipeline had an
- 2 open season and open season ended several weeks ago. We
- 3 are in discussions and will be starting discussions with
- 4 Sempra International and PG&E gas transmission on that
- 5 aspect as well as we are in discussions with San Diego
- 6 Gas & Electric. There's a several month window with
- 7 both San Diego Gas & Electric and the North Baja
- 8 Pipeline where we need to be wrapping up some
- 9 discussions, and so we may be making some decisions in
- 10 the next several months on that aspect.
- 11 MS. GEFTER: Do you have anymore comments for
- 12 us at this point in time on the pipeline issue?
- MS. SEGNER: No.
- 14 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Ms. Gefter, let me do a
- 15 follow-up on your question regarding Line 6900, and
- 16 perhaps this is a question to SDG&E.
- 17 Is enhancement of that line necessary in
- 18 order to serve this project?
- 19 MR. MONTOYA: Ben Montoya, SDG&E. It really
- 20 depends on a number of variables. I guess to put it in
- 21 general terms, our open season is open to all non-core
- 22 customers. Based on the response to that open season we
- 23 will determine what level of capacity needs to be built.
- 24 It is possible that based on the needs of PG&E Gen we're
- 25 the only ones to respond. That may mean nothing needs

- 1 to be built, but Line 6900 may need to be built. We
- 2 would need to look at who has responded to our open
- 3 season and what level of service is required.
- 4 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Okay. Let me explain
- 5 what my concern is. When we do our environmental
- 6 analysis of the project, of course one must define what
- 7 the project is. When an analysis of the project
- 8 reflects additional infrastructure must be constructed
- 9 as an essential ingredient or as a necessary ingredient
- 10 of the project, then the law mandates, I believe, that
- 11 you have to conduct the environmental analysis of that
- 12 enhancement; thus, our challenge of not knowing the
- 13 extent to which we must analyze supplemental facilities
- 14 that are needed to serve this project. That's a
- 15 statement on my part noting the concern and the
- 16 questions that this committee is going to have.
- 17 MR. HANSCHEN: Commissioner, could I address
- 18 that? I just want to make sure that we're not confusing
- 19 the facts here. The Line 6900 upgrade, first of all,
- 20 that is not the 200 million upgrade. From what I
- 21 understand from SDG&E's open season, they haven't
- 22 identified the facilities that they would have to change
- 23 to take in 200 million a day in additional capacity.
- Line 6900 is simply related to the 70 million
- 25 a day capacities, and that 70 million a day capacity has

- 1 been previously identified by SDG&E in their resource
- 2 plan as something that would have to be done over a
- 3 period of time because of just general system growth.
- 4 It has no relationship at all to a particular project.
- 5 So all we're saying is that we know there's
- 6 70 million out there that can be expanded, and SDG&E has
- 7 indicated the time frame over which they think it's
- 8 going to be expanded. We're simply saying that's
- 9 something that they should look at perhaps earlier in
- 10 the time frame because of their gas requirements on
- 11 their system as a whole for system reliability. I mean,
- 12 they're having reliability problems right now. This is
- 13 something that looks like a good insurance policy. We
- 14 don't see it as designated or earmarked for any profit
- 15 project. This has been long identified by SDG&E in
- 16 their resource plan.
- 17 MS. GEFTER: I have a question for SDG&E, a
- 18 question for Mr. Montoya. Is Line 6900 already in
- 19 existence?
- 20 MR. MONTOYA: Ben Montoya, SDG&E. Two phases
- 21 of four are in existence. So there are two additional
- 22 phases totaling 15 miles that would need to be built.
- 23 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: I appreciate your
- 24 comment and in an attempt to clarify, one difficulty we
- 25 have is the evidence -- strike that. The record as thus

- 1 far accumulated does not include the equivalency of the
- 2 will serve by SDG&E that says we have adequate capacity
- 3 to serve this project conditioned upon 1 through 27. We
- 4 don't have anything like that, and so to a certain
- 5 extent we are left to analyzing and speculating rather
- 6 than being able to make reference to a singular
- 7 document. Thank you.
- 8 MS. GEFTER: All right. And does SDG&E have
- 9 any comment on whether or not you would issue a will
- 10 serve letter?
- 11 MR. THORP: Mike Thorp, SDG&E. I don't think
- 12 it's something that we're contemplating doing right now.
- 13 It may be that that could be the end result of our open
- 14 season if we had a customer contract pursuant to that
- 15 open season, but even that would probably have some
- 16 conditions on it. The contract that we would enter into
- 17 as a result of our open season would still be subject to
- 18 CPUC approval, for example.
- 19 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: When does the open
- 20 season close?
- MR. MONTOYA: September 29th.
- 22 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: And assuming
- 23 hypothetically that there's enough interest, then you
- 24 would have to go to the PUC?
- MR. MONTOYA: The first step would be to

- 1 approach each of the respondents and negotiate and then
- 2 take that information to the PUC.
- 3 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: All right. And what
- 4 we're trying to do is get some sense of timing on this
- 5 issue.
- 6 Can you give me an approximate time?
- 7 MR. MONTOYA: The negotiations could -- I've
- 8 heard a couple of months possibly. So that would take
- 9 us to late November. I'm really not sure how long the
- 10 process would be to take that before the PUC and what
- 11 their timing would be for approval.
- MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner, PG&E Gen. One
- 13 thing to clarify is that there are essentially two
- 14 options with San Diego Gas & Electric. One is for us to
- 15 respond to this open season, what I'm calling super firm
- 16 service, and this super firm service in the San Diego
- 17 Gas & Electric open season is a 15-year taker pay
- 18 contract in terms of a commercial guarantee from any
- 19 party that responds. The second option is simply to
- 20 sign up with San Diego Gas & Electric as a firm
- 21 customer, and that process is fairly straightforward.
- 22 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: And I think what the
- 23 committee at least is trying to get to here is the
- 24 timing and the options so we'll know how to proceed.
- 25 What I have here is a lot of options, no firm commitment

- 1 for fuel for the plant, and if that's in negotiations,
- 2 then that's fine, but we can't go forward without some
- 3 type of idea of which direction you're going in and
- 4 whether or not it's going to take more analysis
- 5 depending upon what that option is.
- 6 MS. SEGNER: My understanding from our last
- 7 discussion is that we were told we need to have our fuel
- 8 supply contract resolved by the final determination.
- 9 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: And that's in early
- 10 2001?
- 11 MS. SEGNER: Correct. That's what's on the
- 12 record right now.
- 13 MR. THORP: If I may, Mike Thorp, SDG&E, I'd
- 14 just like to second what Ms. Segner just said. The
- 15 process is very straightforward for their project to
- 16 become a firm transportation customer of San Diego
- 17 Gas & Electric. It's set forth in the tariff what they
- 18 would need to do. It's a very straightforward process.
- 19 The only issue that they've really got that we've been
- 20 talking about here is under that tariff there is a
- 21 potential for curtailment.
- MS. GEFTER: And that actually segways into
- 23 the concerns of the intervenors, the Encina project and
- 24 the South Bay project, and perhaps we'll hear from them.
- 25 I wanted to check with staff first to see if

- 1 staff had any comments so far on the proposal by the
- 2 Applicant with respect to the options and how staff
- 3 intends to deal with that in terms of presenting us with
- 4 an FSA. Let's talk about that now and then move on to
- 5 the representatives of the Encina plant and the South
- 6 Bay plant. So, staff, you may proceed.
- 7 MS. ALLEN: Eileen Allen from the Energy
- 8 Commission staff. With respect to the option of
- 9 rotating block curtailment or a pro rata arrangement, we
- 10 see it as part of the picture. We'd still like to see
- 11 overall the chance of curtailment is minimized for all
- 12 gas users in the region, and the Otay Mesa project is a
- 13 factor in that picture.
- 14 At this point did you want me to talk briefly
- 15 about staff's multidisciplinary study or were you just
- 16 wanting me to respond to the discussion?
- MS. GEFTER: Yes. Let's hear about the
- 18 multidisciplinary study.
- 19 MS. ALLEN: When staff filed its PSA on
- 20 May 3rd, we identified several unresolved issues related
- 21 to gas supply of pipeline capacity. In order to examine
- 22 these further, we'll be conducting a multidisciplinary
- 23 study of the factors affecting the overall availability
- of natural gas and pipeline capacity as they relate to
- 25 the Otay Mesa project.

- 1 We'll be looking at various scenarios
- 2 affecting the San Diego region and Northern Baja,
- 3 California, and Mexico involving integrated generation
- 4 and transmission assessment, and that's looking at the
- 5 generators in the region, both in San Diego County and
- 6 south of the border, and looking at the transmission
- 7 picture. That's both in the San Diego area and what's
- 8 called import capacity coming from the southwest and
- 9 from further north.
- 10 The second overall factor that we'd be
- 11 looking at would be air quality, and that's where
- 12 Rule 69 comes in, examining the options for continued
- 13 natural gas burning for all the generators or the option
- 14 from Encina and South Bay at burning fuel oil and what
- 15 are the implications there for regional air quality.
- 16 Those two major features, the integrated
- 17 generation and transmission assessment and the air
- 18 quality assessment, will feed into conclusions about gas
- 19 supply and pipeline capacity. From that point then
- 20 we'll be able to make conclusions about the overall
- 21 reliability and efficiency picture for the generating
- 22 project.
- 23 MS. GEFTER: What sort of time line does
- 24 staff have in mind to complete its study?
- MS. ALLEN: We see the major activity

- 1 occurring during August, and we hope to have this study
- 2 finished in early September.
- 3 MS. GEFTER: What information was still
- 4 missing that you need in order to complete the study?
- 5 MS. ALLEN: Our transmission staff is working
- 6 with San Diego Gas & Electric and he will be over the
- 7 next week or so on clarifying some questions related to
- 8 scenarios that San Diego Gas & Electric advised for
- 9 their transmission facilities study. We see those
- 10 scenarios as a starting point for our study.
- 11 Yesterday at the staff workshop on this topic
- 12 we had some helpful input from PG&E about corresponding
- 13 gas supply scenarios that they saw involved. We had
- 14 those overall concepts in mind, but they helpfully
- 15 articulated them rather specifically. So I believe that
- 16 we have the overall information that we need now in
- 17 order to begin the study.
- MS. GEFTER: Do you expect the study would be
- 19 completed before you issued the FSA the end of
- 20 September? Is that your time line?
- 21 MS. ALLEN: That's certainly our intent.
- 22 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: And this study will
- 23 take into account all of the various scenarios we've
- 24 heard here today?
- MS. ALLEN: We certainly intend to have it

- 1 reflect that.
- 2 MS. GEFTER: Is staff going to look for a
- 3 will serve letter or some sort of firm commitment from
- 4 SDG&E?
- 5 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Well, how about if we
- 6 give you a hint? The committee will look for such.
- 7 Does that help you?
- 8 MS. ALLEN: I have the hint. Yes, staff will
- 9 look for a will serve letter.
- 10 MR. OGATA: Probably what disturbed about
- 11 this, maybe they don't offer will serve letters. So I
- 12 think we're going to need something of a similar nature,
- 13 but maybe not that exact document. And certainly we
- 14 have to look into whatever their normal process is in
- 15 terms of how customers sign up and what kind of
- 16 verification they get that they're going to receive that
- 17 service, and if that's what normal customers would get,
- 18 I don't think we should ask for more than that.
- 19 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: Well, I respectfully
- 20 disagree. I think we are in a position to ask for more
- 21 than that. What the committee is looking for is when we
- 22 look to any forthcoming decision and we seek to address
- 23 the question of gas availability and supply and that
- 24 issue is before some supreme court justice, I want to be
- 25 able to reference an exhibit rather than a series of

- 1 lines on a transcript. Maybe the series of lines on the
- 2 transcript might supplement an exhibit, a particular
- 3 exhibit, but I would look for a singular document that
- 4 could be pointed to to answer that question from the
- 5 purveyor.
- 6 MS. GEFTER: Mr. Thorp?
- 7 MR. THORP: Yes. CEC staff counsel hit the
- 8 nail on the head. We may be able to work with the
- 9 commission to put together some sort of exhibit that
- 10 explains what our procedures are as a public utility and
- 11 how the Applicant could take firm service from us, but
- 12 as far as just the straight will serve letter as I
- 13 understand that term in the normal sense to be used,
- 14 that's not something that SDG&E provides. We would not
- 15 be in a position to do that because if nothing else it
- 16 would provide the Applicant with a priority that doesn't
- 17 exist under our CPUC approval role.
- 18 MR. HANSCHEN: If I might, Peter Hanschen,
- 19 PG&E Generating. I actually think that the SDG&E tariff
- 20 has a pro forma contract in it for if you want to sign
- 21 up for firm long term service right now that a pro forma
- 22 contract has been blessed by the commission, and
- 23 essentially it's a matter of filling in the name of the
- 24 recipient and the MDQ and that's it.
- MR. THORP: Mr. Henschen is entirely correct.

- 1 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. Let's move on now to
- 2 Cabrillo Power which represents Encina Power Plant, and
- 3 we have a filing in response to the questions from the
- 4 committee and we'd like to hear their presentation.
- 5 MR. McKINSEY: Thank you, Commissioners, for
- 6 taking the time to hear our comments today. I was in
- 7 attendance yesterday at the workshop also where we
- 8 discussed a lot of the very same issues that we're
- 9 discussing today, and one thing that struck me
- 10 yesterday, and we kind of did it again today, we've been
- 11 spending a lot of time on curtailment. There's a few
- 12 misnomers or things that haven't been really clear about
- 13 the impacts of curtailment.
- Both the Encina plant and the South Bay
- 15 plant, it is true, have the ability to switch to fuel
- 16 oil. That's not simply a matter of flipping a switch to
- 17 an alternate gas tank. It's a matter of converting the
- 18 plant, and in theory our plant is able to do that in
- 19 90 minutes. That's not something that we obviously have
- 20 done very recently. It's not something that we have
- 21 people that have done it on staff and ready to go. In
- 22 theory we're trained to do it and in theory it should
- 23 work fine.
- 24 At a minimum it means that we have to come
- 25 off line in order to switch. We have to insert oil guns

- 1 that shoot the fuel oil into the burning assemblies, and
- 2 it brings about a potential that we may stay running on
- 3 fuel oil for a certain amount of time. I think there
- 4 are some times that we would run at a minimum before we
- 5 would then have to switch back, and the switching back
- 6 may indeed even require a certain amount of cleaning or
- 7 processing before we switch back.
- 8 In addition, when we're burning the fuel oil
- 9 obviously -- and we haven't really hit that issue, but
- 10 it's a complex one, and that is the topic of what
- 11 happens to our emissions when we're burning fuel oil
- 12 instead of natural gas. The discussion about
- 13 curtailment in essence is a discussion about the impacts
- 14 that additional load on the existing gas supply in this
- 15 region, the impacts that that additional load will have
- 16 on the existing users.
- 17 It is true that we are now a firm customer
- 18 and that we are subject to curtailment and that all firm
- 19 customers are subject to curtailment, but if you approve
- 20 another project given an already existing gas supply
- 21 that is threatened and shortened, you're obviously going
- 22 to add to that load and thus add more impacts.
- 23 In fact, an event occurred last week that has
- 24 significantly added the pressure to our negotiations and
- 25 changed our focus. On Thursday we were told for the

- 1 first time in a long time that we needed to prepare to
- 2 be curtailed on Friday. It might happen and it didn't.
- 3 And this was a shock because up until now we had
- 4 understood that the most likely time for curtailment was
- 5 in the winter during the high heat fuel oil demand, heat
- 6 natural gas demand.
- 7 And as we've been discussing and, in fact, as
- 8 we've been monitoring and participating in this
- 9 proceeding, it's become very clear that the gas supply
- 10 in this region has increasingly become constrained, and
- 11 as it's become constrained, the likelihood of
- 12 curtailment has increased and apparently it has now
- 13 reached the point where it could occur on a hot but
- 14 fairly innocuous day in the summertime in this region.
- 15 That would indicate that the real solution to
- 16 the region is additional gas supply, and as we continue
- 17 to turn towards trying to add -- and really there is a
- 18 need for additional generation. There's no debating
- 19 that, and for that reason the commission needs to focus
- 20 on exactly what you're required to do, which is to see
- 21 is there going to be an adequate gas supply and has an
- 22 Applicant that comes before you demonstrated that.
- 23 We are indeed in negotiations and we are
- 24 interested in resolving these issues because I think
- 25 that all the existing generators have a common interest

- 1 in having an adequate gas supply. That, however, is a
- 2 difficult resolution. As you've perceived, there's a
- 3 certain amount of information that isn't available.
- 4 One of the reasons why we brought in Bob
- 5 Weatherwax and we're doing analysis is we're concerned
- 6 about why we're suffering from curtailment. There's two
- 7 obvious answers. Either our load in the region has
- 8 increased or our supply has decreased. Now, in theory
- 9 our supply shouldn't have decreased except it is
- 10 possible that either less gas is being delivered in here
- 11 because it is being consumed in the peripheral area or
- 12 perhaps additional gas is going into the Mexico area and
- 13 that that has been unaccounted for. In the divestiture
- 14 proceedings the amount of gas that was falling into the
- 15 Mexico region was supposedly quantified. At this point,
- 16 however, we're not sure if even that information is
- 17 confidential also.
- 18 What we would like to see come out of this
- 19 proceeding, and I think it's also what would resolve all
- 20 of these issues, is an understanding of how much gas is
- 21 available right now and why it is at that level and then
- 22 how much gas the new projects that are coming along or
- 23 may come along will require and where we can get the
- 24 additional capacity.
- We have two great opportunities to develop

- 1 that capacity. One of them is an increase in SDG&E's
- 2 delivery capability and two is the Baja Norte gas line
- 3 that we've discussed. Both of those also present
- 4 another unique situation in that the existing gas supply
- 5 has primarily come from the north. And, in fact, the
- 6 South Bay will speak, Duke will, but the South Bay plant
- 7 was always at the end of that gas line, and that made it
- 8 subject to a certain amount of uncertainty because, as
- 9 was brought up, the entire system doesn't really have a
- 10 lot of capacity in it. Sometimes it was feared that the
- 11 load would be severe enough that they might have to
- 12 switch to fuel oil or shut down some of their units just
- 13 from the lack of pressure at the other end.
- 14 The Baja Norte gas pipeline represents a
- 15 unique addition to the reliability of gas supply in this
- 16 region because it would be bringing in gas from the
- 17 south, and in evaluation of that one of the things that
- 18 we're hoping that we can continue to focus on is trying
- 19 to develop that gas supply. 400 million cubic feet per
- 20 day of gas, some of which we might be able to obtain to
- 21 come above the border and come into this region would
- 22 greatly help this situation.
- 23 That situation is something that, as we
- 24 alluded to yesterday, we are considering our own
- 25 development interests in the Encina plant, and we

- 1 haven't decided what we're going to do yet. One of the
- 2 reasons for that is the gas supply constraints that
- 3 exist now.
- 4 One of the things that it might force us to
- 5 do rather than adding capacity might simply be to
- 6 replace capacity, but this region needs more capacity,
- 7 and if it needs more capacity, then it needs more gas
- 8 supply. That really means that we feel we need a lot
- 9 more candid discussion about what we can do to increase
- 10 that gas supply, and we've been a little frustrated and
- 11 I think PG&E Generating has been frustrated in that
- 12 sense also.
- To SDG&E's credit, however, they are indeed
- 14 looking out and saying here's what we can do and here's
- 15 what we can deliver. The concern we have is that we're
- 16 moving head long into an increasing pressure to resolve
- 17 the gas supply issues for this project and, in fact, we
- 18 won't resolve them if we simply turn towards increasing
- 19 the curtailment on what is already a very constrained
- 20 gas supply system.
- 21 The complimentary issue which we haven't
- 22 addressed today, and I don't think we will, is the
- 23 electrical supply side of that. I don't think it was
- 24 even scheduled today, but we were asked yesterday at our
- 25 workshop if we had any additional issues regarding

- 1 electrical transmission, and indeed we do still have
- 2 some issues regarding the termination at this point and
- 3 the actual -- what ISO has said and what SDG&E has said
- 4 regarding what improvements will be needed. We're going
- 5 to address those in some data requests which we were
- 6 asked to do.
- 7 So the primary area that we're still
- 8 concerned is not electrical transmission. It is this
- 9 gas supply issue, and I feel that increasingly we're
- 10 getting off topic as we discuss curtailment because that
- 11 is really an impacts discussion and that supply is
- 12 what -- a reliable adequate gas supply is what you
- 13 require and it's indeed what we should get in this
- 14 region.
- MS. GEFTER: You indicated that you don't
- 16 have the information as to why gas supply is limited.
- 17 Have you asked SDG&E for that information?
- MR. McKINSEY: Well, it would be I think, in
- 19 fact, a significant amount of confidential information,
- 20 who those customers are and where that gas is going. I
- 21 would love to ask that question.
- MS. GEFTER: Mr. Thorp, would SDG&E provide
- 23 the answers to the questions posed by Mr. McKinsey?
- MR. THORP: Yes, I think that we would be
- 25 able to provide a response that should give a

- 1 significant amount of information without divulging
- 2 confidential information, confidential customer
- 3 information. I think we'd have to see exactly what
- 4 Cabrillo's request was, but we're certainly willing to
- 5 work with them to try and provide basic information.
- 6 There is a substantial amount of information
- 7 about gas supply and gas demand that is public
- 8 information in many of our CPUC proceedings, and I think
- 9 from that public information they should be able to
- 10 satisfy, I hope, a lot of their needs.
- 11 MS. GEFTER: As we mentioned earlier, you're
- 12 going to submit data requests regarding transmission
- 13 system engineering. You may also at the very same time
- 14 file data requests to San Diego Gas & Electric regarding
- 15 the questions that you mentioned earlier.
- 16 MR. McKINSEY: That is our present intention.
- MS. GEFTER: The time for filing data
- 18 requests is running, and you've had these questions for
- 19 quite a while. So we would recommend that you do that
- 20 immediately.
- 21 And also, we did see in several of your
- 22 filings some indication that you wanted to pursue
- 23 Code of Civil Procedure discovery methods. There's no
- 24 necessity for that. We have a discovery process in our
- 25 regulations which include filing data requests.

- 1 MR. McKINSEY: Oh, I apologize. One of the
- 2 areas of contention that we have is in the electrical
- 3 transmission area, and to the extent that the Energy
- 4 Commission has decided that the needed improvements in
- 5 order to deliver the electrical power that Otay Mesa
- 6 would deliver to the load center are outside the scope
- 7 of the Energy Commission's jurisdiction, that would then
- 8 imply that if we want to go about acquiring that
- 9 information that we have to go outside this proceeding
- 10 to do that.
- 11 MS. GEFTER: File your data requests and see
- 12 what the responses are from the parties. That's what we
- 13 recommend and that you do it in an expedited manner
- 14 because at this point we keep receiving documents from
- 15 you on behalf of Cabrillo in which you keep suggesting
- 16 this possibility, and at this point our view is that we
- 17 have a very adequate discovery process and you need to
- 18 file your data requests.
- 19 Okay. I'll move on. I have a second
- 20 question for you regarding Rule 69. One of the concerns
- 21 that staff has brought up and that the committee is very
- 22 aware of is that when fuel oil is burned it affects the
- 23 air quality in the region. Rule 69 specifically
- 24 indicated that both the Encina and South Bay plants
- 25 would need to retrofit their projects by January 1st,

- 1 2000, in order to proceed with that fuel burning option.
- 2 The question is whether your client has done
- 3 that and whether you intend to do that or what is the
- 4 plan with respect to retrofitting?
- 5 MR. McKINSEY: I do not think that we've
- 6 retrofitted, but I'm not clear on exactly what those
- 7 retrofit requirements would be. Are you speaking of
- 8 actually installing -- I mean, we have it at the time, a
- 9 commitment and an obligation to maintain the ability to
- 10 burn fuel oil and to be interruptible, so to speak, and
- 11 to switch to fuel oil. We maintain that ability, and
- 12 I'm not familiar with the exact retrofit requirement
- 13 that you're asking.
- 14 MS. GEFTER: In Rule 69 there is a specific
- 15 provision that requires retrofitting by January 1st,
- 16 2000. And I may be misreading that provision, but I
- 17 wanted to get information as to what the status is.
- 18 MR. McKINSEY: If that's the real question,
- 19 I'm still not sure exactly what the answer to that is
- 20 and that might be something we should direct to the
- 21 Air District to see exactly what we're being expected to
- 22 do which I don't believe has occurred.
- MS. GEFTER: All right. Do you have any
- 24 other comments?
- MR. McKINSEY: That's it.

- 1 MS. GEFTER: Thank you very much. We'll ask
- 2 a representative from the Air District to come forward
- 3 and talk to us about Rule 69 for a minute.
- 4 MR. LAKE: I would assume from your question
- 5 that one of the issues is what is the current status of
- 6 Rule 69. Rule 69 was last amended in 1995, and at that
- 7 time it established a flexible approach for SDG&E to
- 8 control its NOX emissions from the two existing power
- 9 plants. It had a provision in it that if any units were
- 10 sold, those units had to be retrofitted to an SCR
- 11 equivalent control technology essentially by January 1,
- 12 2001.
- 13 We put that provision in at the time. This
- 14 was prior to deregulation, but at the time it was
- 15 thought that there might be a possibility that one or
- 16 more units might be sold. We didn't know which units.
- 17 We didn't know what their capacity factors would be. We
- 18 didn't know what the outcome would be with those units,
- 19 whether they would be repowered or replaced or exactly
- 20 what would happen. So not having that information, we
- 21 put in the most stringent limit that would apply.
- 22 Well, now all the units have been sold and
- 23 the new owners have asked the district to consider
- 24 changes to the rule that would allow the current plant
- 25 operators some additional flexibility with the operation

- 1 of the NOX emission controls on the SDG&E power plants.
- 2 Retrofits with some emission controls have proceeded.
- 3 South Bay 1 has been retrofitted. Encina Units 4 and 5
- 4 have been retrofitted, and both plants are on a schedule
- 5 for retrofits with emission controls for the remainder
- of the units over the next couple of years.
- 7 Right now the district is considering --
- 8 we've held several meetings with interested parties, and
- 9 we are considering requested amendments to the rule
- 10 which would change the nature of the emission controls
- 11 that would be required on individual units, existing
- 12 units.
- 13 MS. GEFTER: How would this impact air
- 14 quality when these units burn fuel oil in the event of
- 15 curtailment?
- 16 MR. LAKE: Well, until very recently we were
- 17 under the same I guess perhaps misunderstanding as to
- 18 when the gas curtailments might occur. Historically
- 19 they've occurred in the wintertime. For the last four
- 20 or five years I don't think SDG&E fired away on the
- 21 existing units. The expectation was that if it
- 22 occurred, it would occur in the winter periods, not
- 23 during peak electrical demand and not during peak ozone
- 24 periods. So that was a concern because you do get
- 25 higher emissions with oil, but it was not occurring

- 1 during our peak ozone periods.
- Now that this oil burning gas curtailments
- 3 with potential additional oil burning may be coming up
- 4 during summer demand periods which may coincide with
- 5 some of our peak ozone periods, we are quite concerned
- 6 about that and we are taking a look at that with regard
- 7 to the possible changes to Rule 69.
- 8 MS. GEFTER: And what sort of impact would
- 9 this information have on the final DOC for the Otay Mesa
- 10 project?
- 11 MR. LAKE: As regards to our determination of
- 12 compliance, this does not directly affect our ability to
- 13 find the Otay Mesa Power Plant project to be consistent
- 14 with our rules and regulations. They've only applied to
- 15 us for gas burning capability. We've evaluated the
- 16 project relative to that, and at this point in time it
- 17 appears it would meet all of our requirements. That's
- 18 why we issued the preliminary determination of
- 19 compliance.
- 20 MS. GEFTER: What about cumulative impacts in
- 21 terms of if the Otay Mesa project is running with the
- 22 other two projects that can burn fuel oil or curtail and
- 23 then they burn fuel oil how does that impact the
- 24 regional situation?
- 25 MR. LAKE: That does not directly affect our

- 1 permit review. It's not one of the criteria that we
- 2 look at when we're doing a permit on an individual
- 3 project.
- 4 MS. GEFTER: That's a CEQA issue as far as
- 5 staff?
- 6 MR. LAKE: Yes, but it does affect also our
- 7 considerations with regard to the changes to Rule 69
- 8 that we're contemplating because of the potential for
- 9 oil burning now during the peak summer period.
- 10 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. We'd ask if you'd
- 11 stick around a little bit longer until we finish because
- 12 there may be other questions. Thank you very much.
- 13 We do want to hear from Duke Power on
- 14 South Bay. We are running into our 5:00 o'clock
- 15 deadline. If people are willing to stick around a few
- 16 more minutes, we do have some other items after we
- 17 conclude on this issue.
- 18 MS. SEGNER: I also would mention that Ryan
- 19 O'Neal from Sempra International is in the audience as
- 20 well to discuss the North Baja Pipeline, if needed.
- MS. GEFTER: Thank you.
- 22 MS. BAKER: Thank you, Ms. Gefter. Carolyn
- 23 Baker representing Duke Energy, Duke Power. I just have
- 24 a very brief comment in light of what's just been said.
- 25 We too are quite concerned, to use Mr. Lake's term,

- 1 about the burning of fuel oil, and so we are very much
- 2 looking forward to continuing discussions with all the
- 3 generators in the area because we would like to avoid
- 4 that if at all possible. So we are entertaining
- 5 whatever ideas, proposals, concepts that are out there.
- 6 MS. GEFTER: You're participating in the
- 7 discussions on that?
- 8 MS. BAKER: Yes, we are, with PG&E Generating
- 9 and Encina Cabrillo, correct.
- 10 MS. GEFTER: Thank you. We understand
- 11 there's a representative here from Sempra who can talk
- 12 to us a bit about the North Baja Pipeline project.
- MR. O'NEAL: Hi, Ryan O'Neal with Sempra
- 14 Energy International. I didn't come with any prepared
- 15 documents. I thought it would be more useful to just
- 16 answer questions as they might arise regarding the North
- 17 Baja Pipeline project and how it might deal with the
- 18 issues that you're wrestling with.
- 19 COMMISSIONER PERNELL: What is the time line
- 20 for the project? Is it being constructed in its planned
- 21 stages?
- MR. O'NEAL: The project has currently
- 23 completed the first phase of the open season. The next
- 24 phase would be to sign contracts that would be binding
- 25 upon the parties subject to certain precedents at the

- 1 end of September of this year. So we would move forward
- 2 with the final permitting in 2001, construction in 2002,
- 3 in service in January of 2003.
- 4 MR. TOMASHEFSKY: At what point are you --
- 5 you've given those time lines, but at what point do we
- 6 consider that a go of the project?
- 7 MR. O'NEAL: At the end of September we will
- 8 have sufficient contracts executed to tell us whether
- 9 we're moving forward or not. We'll respond back to the
- 10 shipper I believe approximately the second week in
- 11 October. At that point there will be financial
- 12 commitments on both sides, not only ourselves as the
- 13 transporters, but also on behalf of the shippers to keep
- 14 us sufficiently in check, I believe.
- MS. GEFTER: When is your open season
- 16 concluded?
- 17 MR. O'NEAL: The open season concludes with
- 18 our response to shippers in the second week of October
- 19 that we have executed the final contracts and sent them
- 20 back. So we would have binding contracts executed at
- 21 that point in time.
- 22 MS. GEFTER: Do you need to get approval from
- 23 FERC for these contracts?
- MR. O'NEAL: We do not need approval from
- 25 FERC for the contract. We will need a permit from FERC

- 1 for the U.S. pipeline route as we will need a permit
- 2 from the Energy Regulatory Commission in Mexico for the
- 3 pipeline route there. And as you come back there are
- 4 other miscellaneous permits along the way that will be
- 5 required.
- 6 MS. GEFTER: From your perspective how does
- 7 your time line for buildout compare to the Otay Mesa
- 8 project time line for buildout? Would you both be --
- 9 will both projects be completed around the same time
- 10 allowing the Otay Mesa project to interconnect with the
- 11 Baja project?
- MR. O'NEAL: I'm not quite sure what their
- 13 actual in service date is. So I can only comment that
- 14 we would be in service in January of 2003 which is
- 15 scheduled to meet the requirements of plants in Mexico
- 16 as well as added customers along that route.
- MS. GEFTER: At this point we don't have
- 18 further questions for you, but thank you very much.
- 19 MR. O'NEAL: All right. Thank you.
- MS. ALLEN: Ms. Gefter, I had a comment as
- 21 far as the discussions continuing. As far as the
- 22 possibility of a pro rata curtailment scheme, I'm
- 23 wondering what would happen if the generators within the
- 24 San Diego region came to a pro rata agreement but CFE
- 25 was not in the same position. I'm also thinking about

- 1 the logistics of communicating with CFE.
- 2 It may be that communication happens quickly
- 3 through Sempra International, but I don't know that. So
- 4 I'm just wondering, you know, what if three-quarters of
- 5 the parties were involved in the agreement and one major
- 6 party in Mexico is not?
- 7 MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner, PG&E Generating.
- 8 We are also in discussions with Sempra International who
- 9 is in charge of managing the fuel supply for the
- 10 Rosarito plant. And, Eric, maybe if you'd run down the
- 11 hall real quick and grab Bryan, he can come back and
- 12 answer that question. There is openness with Sempra
- 13 International on these discussions. All the generators
- 14 in the area have been very cooperative, and Sempra
- 15 International will bring in CFE as needed to the
- 16 discussions.
- 17 MS. ALLEN: And that would be taking into
- 18 account the various consumer possibilities in Mexico?
- 19 We are aware that there is a proposal for what I call
- 20 the Rosarito Complex in Mexicali and then Henry Morris
- 21 of PGT mentioned another gas consumer at a place called
- 22 Norte Del Rio or something like that. So there are a
- 23 number of locations beyond Rosarito Beach.
- MS. SEGNER: Right. My understanding is in
- 25 the Mexicali location that that customer will be taking

- 1 gas off the So Cal gas system rather than San Diego Gas
- 2 & Electric's system. So there's not an impact in terms
- 3 of Mexicali versus Tijuana.
- In addition, in terms of the other power
- 5 project that has been announced in Mexico, my
- 6 understanding is that their only source of gas will be
- 7 from the North Baja Pipeline. So there's not a need to
- 8 be concerned with impacts from that vantage point.
- 9 MS. ALLEN: Staff is working on a map that
- 10 would be part of this report for its plan of study. Our
- 11 cartography staff would be producing this map, and I
- 12 would envision that it would be a display available for
- 13 the evidentiary hearings.
- 14 MS. GEFTER: That would be very helpful.
- 15 While we have you on the floor, Ms. Allen, I have a
- 16 question about the impacts of the proposal to amend
- 17 Rule 69 to lower the limits in terms of emissions.
- 18 Is staff doing a cumulative impacts analysis
- 19 of the air quality in the region as part of their CEQA
- 20 review and that would be supplemental to information
- 21 contained in the PDOC? Is that the intent of the air
- 22 quality staff?
- 23 MS. ALLEN: Staff sees the curtailment
- 24 scenarios as they relate to Rule 69 as being somewhat
- 25 separate from the air quality PSA and FSA. Our air

- 1 quality analyst will be a participant in the
- 2 multidisciplinary study. So we'll be addressing it
- 3 through that avenue.
- 4 MR. TOMASHEFSKY: Getting back to the
- 5 pro rata curtailment, in thinking through this, and
- 6 maybe it's too simplistic a way to look at it, are you
- 7 suggesting that if the generators agree to some pro rata
- 8 curtailment that works where you get a pro rata
- 9 reduction and supply to the particular facilities, is
- 10 the presumption that there wouldn't be a need for any
- 11 fuel oil usage, that the generators would just simply
- 12 reduce the amount of electricity that's generated in
- 13 those facilities? And does that take care of the
- 14 concerns about air quality issues with respect to the
- 15 three plants?
- 16 MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner, PG&E Generating.
- 17 I certainly can't speak in terms of how the various
- 18 generators will operate their plant during off peak
- 19 hours, but certainly the curtailment mechanism, if there
- 20 are any environmental impacts, would certainly lessen
- 21 those environmental impacts significantly.
- MR. TOMASHEFSKY: So is it true that the
- 23 facility itself would have to be completely either
- 24 running on fuel oil or running on natural gas? So in
- 25 order to switch to fuel oil you'd have to essentially

- 1 not generate any electricity with natural gas or can you
- 2 split the units up in such a way that you can generate
- 3 one with gas and one with fuel oil?
- 4 MS. SEGNER: I really can't speak for the
- 5 other generators, and they would be the best ones to
- 6 answer this question, but my understanding is that they
- 7 probably would prefer to split them up by units because
- 8 there's some operational considerations as well. So
- 9 they may want to use a fuel oil unit during off peak
- 10 hours or something like that.
- 11 MS. GEFTER: One other question for staff
- 12 regarding the FSA, just a question regarding, I guess,
- 13 alternate proposal 2B, the gas supply line that would go
- 14 south from the Otay Mesa project to the Mexican border
- 15 and then theoretically intersect with the North Baja
- 16 Pipeline.
- 17 What sort of environmental review is staff
- 18 proposing for that alternative?
- 19 MS. ALLEN: The environmental review is
- 20 ongoing. The review encompasses all of the areas that
- 21 we usually look at that are related to ground
- 22 disturbance, and it would involve sinking a pipeline.
- 23 The route follows the existing Miguel Tijuana line to
- 24 the border. So our staff that deals with the array of
- 25 areas affected by ground disturbance, the biology staff,

- 1 the cultural resources staff, paleontology, land use,
- 2 they're all looking at it.
- 3 MS. GEFTER: So this would have a full
- 4 environmental review the same as the alternative 2A?
- 5 MS. ALLEN: Very much so.
- 6 MS. GEFTER: And then the recommendation of
- 7 the FSA would be that both routes -- they would
- 8 basically give us a recommendation as to those routes?
- 9 MS. ALLEN: Yes. Ms. Gefter, were you going
- 10 to discuss the schedule?
- MS. GEFTER: We're moving on to that. I'm
- 12 just asking committee members if we have anymore
- 13 questions on this topic. It appears that we are done
- 14 with the topic, and we're going to move on.
- Before we move on to issues around the
- 16 schedule, I'd like to ask Mr. Claycond about his motion.
- 17 Mr. Claycond, if you'll come up to the microphone.
- 18 Mr. Claycond filed a motion for an order directing a
- 19 response to his data request and this was to the
- 20 Applicant.
- 21 I don't know, Ms. Segner, whether you've seen
- 22 this motion from Mr. Claycond. He's requesting the
- 23 Applicant to answer his question regarding photo
- 24 voltaic. And, Mr. Claycond, do you want to explain your
- 25 data request and then after that we'll respond?

- 1 MR. CLAYCOND: Well, I don't have it with me
- 2 right at the moment, but to offset carbon monoxide
- 3 emissions we suggested that they consider as an
- 4 alternative to using natural gas and their conventional
- 5 generating systems that they consider photo voltaic and
- 6 that's what we're waiting for. And Mr. Thompson told me
- 7 yesterday that they would be responding.
- 8 MS. GEFTER: All right. So, Mr. Thompson, do
- 9 you want to tell us the Applicant's position on
- 10 responding to his data request?
- 11 MR. THOMPSON: Yes. Thank you. I did indeed
- 12 speak with Mr. Claycond yesterday, and although I told
- 13 him we remained convinced that photo voltaic are not a
- 14 viable alternative to this project, we would be
- 15 responding with information on his data request.
- 16 MS. GEFTER: Would that be satisfactory to
- 17 you?
- MR. CLAYCOND: After I see the response.
- 19 MS. GEFTER: All right. Well, then at this
- 20 point we'll take your motion under submission and if the
- 21 Applicant responds in time it will become a moot motion.
- MR. CLAYCOND: Okay. Thank you.
- MS. GEFTER: Thank you very much.
- MR. CLAYCOND: I have another comment I'd
- 25 like to make if you want to go ahead and take that now.

- 1 MS. GEFTER: Go right ahead.
- 2 MR. CLAYCOND: This is actually to the
- 3 commissioners, to the committee, to go tell the governor
- 4 not to panic because of the situation that's existing in
- 5 San Diego County with everybody tearing their hair out
- 6 about electricity prices because I mentioned yesterday
- 7 and it hadn't come up again yet today, but Jesse Knight
- 8 who is the chairman, CEO of the Greater San Diego
- 9 Chamber of Commerce about three weeks ago said that,
- 10 "Gee, if they go ahead and put in the Valley Rainbow
- 11 intertie electrical connection, an electrical line
- 12 25 miles long, it would solve San Diego's electricity
- 13 shortage problems till the year 2008."
- 14 After it was brought up there was some
- 15 discussion about, well, it might be 2006 and it might be
- 16 2007. It was a long discussion. But the point is we
- 17 don't face a crisis situation if they go ahead and put
- 18 in that line, and I think ISO has given them the go-head
- 19 on that is my understanding.
- 20 Now, in addition to that, I saw a quote from
- 21 our Energy Summit back on January 25th when
- 22 Senator Peace made a statement that probably relates to
- 23 this, although I'm not sure. It's worth listening to
- 24 anyway, and he said, "We have not even a playing field
- 25 to assure that the benefits by coincidence the LA market

- 1 gets as a consequence of overly planned infrastructure
- 2 and transmission which is likely the result of LA Water
- 3 and Power having built a lot of their stuff and Edison
- 4 having built a lot of their stuff and they're getting
- 5 some redundancy in that area as a consequence."
- 6 We are not going to take a portion of this
- 7 state which happens by consequence which is incidentally
- 8 San Francisco and San Diego and say, "Screw you guys.
- 9 We're going to drop you off into the ocean and we're
- 10 going to accumulate all the benefit of that excess
- 11 capacity to Los Angeles and wherever, basically
- 12 Los Angeles."
- 13 So after you read that four or five times, I
- 14 think what we get out of it is the fact that there's
- 15 some power plants up there, I don't even know if they're
- 16 running in Los Angeles, you know, and that may be where
- 17 the surplus electricity would come for that 25 mile
- 18 Valley Rainbow connection. I don't know whether the two
- 19 are tied together or not, but they could be.
- 20 So once again, tell the governor not to
- 21 panic. We're not that bad off if they go ahead and do
- 22 some of the things that they should have done and don't
- 23 try to hold somebody over a barrel for this.
- MS. GEFTER: Thank you very much for your
- 25 comments, and that will all be in the record. Thank

- 1 you.
- 2 At this point are there any other questions
- 3 or comments from members of the public? Yes,
- 4 Ms. Duncan.
- 5 MS. DUNCAN: Thank you. My name is Holly
- 6 Duncan, private citizen. I'm a little confused at this
- 7 point. It's been two days, a lot of data and a lot of
- 8 information being thrown and thrashed about.
- 9 Yesterday's transmission issues on natural gas got kind
- 10 of exciting and energetic, electrifying, shall we say.
- I need some clarification here from the
- 12 committee because my understanding is that the way you
- 13 site and bless these units is based on existing rules,
- 14 and what we've talked about here is I quess manipulating
- 15 Rule 14 in order to get it to work for us instead of
- 16 basing our decision on how that rule exists currently.
- 17 I've heard some mention of changing Rule 69
- 18 in order to get some things to work for us.
- 19 Commissioner Laurie raised the issue of supposedly
- 20 there's supposed to be an environmental review of any
- 21 infrastructure upgrades that need to occur in order to
- 22 make this project go, and we didn't really address that.
- 23 So I'm kind of concerned at this point and
- 24 confused because when I first came in on this process we
- 25 had some firm fixed dates and it seemed like we had some

- 1 firm fixed goals of what we were going to accomplish and
- 2 what kind of information we were going to have to work
- 3 with, and things are starting to get kind of fuzzy and
- 4 we have rolling deadlines now and issues of changing
- 5 rules when I thought we had to certify based on the
- 6 rules as they currently exist.
- 7 So if someone could clarify that for me
- 8 because I'm very confused at this point. Thank you.
- 9 MS. GEFTER: One of the obvious concerns you
- 10 have is about the schedule, and that's a concern that
- 11 all the parties have, especially the Applicant. The
- 12 certification process is nominally a 12-month process
- 13 from the date that the application is accepted by the
- 14 commission to the day that the commission reviews the
- 15 final decision.
- 16 However, in this case and in most cases those
- 17 12 months slip because it takes quite a while to gather
- 18 the information that's necessary in order for staff to
- 19 make a recommendation to the committee and in order for
- 20 the committee to review that information and issue a
- 21 proposed decision. So in this case that 12-month
- 22 schedule has slipped quite a bit.
- 23 Another thing that has occurred in this case
- 24 is that we have some brand new innovative areas such as
- 25 the mobile offsets and the air quality area, the use of

- 1 SCONOx which is a new technology, and several other
- 2 issues here that are new to the power plant construction
- 3 industry, and it's taking time for the Applicant to
- 4 provide the information necessary for staff. So I
- 5 understand your confusion over the schedule. The
- 6 schedule is changing and it will change again at the end
- 7 of this meeting.
- 8 In terms of negotiating Rule 14 and Rule 69,
- 9 from what we understood, it didn't sound like they were
- 10 going to change Rule 14, but they were going to try to
- 11 work within the parameters of Rule 14. That is
- 12 something again that is a little bit outside the
- 13 parameters of our jurisdiction because what we're
- 14 looking for really is whether or not SDG&E can provide a
- 15 firm fuel supply to the Applicant. I hope that helps
- 16 some of your questions.
- 17 MS. DUNCAN: There's another question because
- 18 it came up today in terms of -- this is new language to
- 19 me, firm customers, non-firm. I think it was Cabrillo's
- 20 presentation that said some of the categories there are
- 21 non-electricity producing uses. So will that be the
- 22 natural gas fuel fleets that are part of the MERCs? Is
- 23 this going to put more pressure on gas supply? Is that
- 24 where the natural gas comes from, from a natural gas
- 25 provided fleet?

- 1 MS. GEFTER: That's a good question. As I
- 2 understand your question is, is the new proposed MERC
- 3 offsets which we haven't seen yet -- your question is
- 4 whether these were going to be gas fired vehicles or gas
- 5 fired boats and whether those particular vehicles would
- 6 be using gas? Is that your question?
- 7 MS. DUNCAN: Yes. And then also one question
- 8 that came up yesterday that I'd just like to get on the
- 9 record in terms of rules and not stepping on other
- 10 people's toes. In terms of the Rule 14 discussion in
- 11 yesterday's workshop, someone raised the issue of, well,
- 12 how does this Rule 14 relate to the ISO's hands off/no
- 13 touch rule and that I don't think ever got an answer.
- I just think that's an important question
- 15 because we do have that new organization out there that
- 16 supposedly is involved in all of this. And again, I
- 17 think they should just be cautious and careful. They
- 18 should be able to answer that rule for us before we go
- 19 forward on a decision. I'd appreciate that intention.
- 20 Thank you.
- 21 MS. GEFTER: Thank you very much.
- MS. SEGNER: Sharon Segner, PG&E Generating.
- 23 Regarding the MERCs and impact of the MERCs on natural
- 24 gas supply, the boats that are being converted are being
- 25 converted from diesel to an extremely clean diesel

- 1 engine. So there is no natural gas involved on the boat
- 2 aspect of the MERCs.
- 3 Relating to the conversion of the truck
- 4 fleets, that is LOG and the natural gas supply is not
- 5 from San Diego. It's being tied into San Diego Gas &
- 6 Electric's pipeline system.
- 7 Regarding the ISO's rule on this, certainly
- 8 our view is that California as an independent system
- 9 operator has an important role in this as they were at
- 10 the workshop yesterday, and as we're in discussions with
- 11 the other generators, certainly the ISO as well as some
- 12 of the other regulatory agencies will have important
- 13 data points and inputs, and we will be soliciting their
- 14 input.
- MS. GEFTER: We're going to have to move on
- 16 because the county needs to have their room back. So
- 17 we're going to move on to the question of schedule and
- 18 try to get through those as quickly as possible, and
- 19 then perhaps you can speak to Ms. Duncan at the
- 20 conclusion of today's meeting off the record.
- 21 We would like to hear the Applicant's
- 22 proposal on the revised schedule.
- 23 MS. SEGNER: Our proposal is the last page of
- 24 the handout. Our understanding is that the air PSA will
- 25 be issued on or before August 4th which means the FSA is

- 1 issued on September 28th, if I'm doing my math
- 2 correctly. That puts the hearings in mid-October, the
- 3 PMPD in early December, and final determination January
- 4 2001. That's our view of the schedule.
- 5 MS. GEFTER: All right. Staff?
- 6 MS. ALLEN: My major concern is an AFC
- 7 supplement that was mentioned in Mr. Thompson's status
- 8 report No. 6. At this point the contents of that
- 9 supplement are unknown, and we'd very much like to know
- 10 when the Applicant intends to file it.
- I can't make any commitment about the staff
- 12 producing an FSA and filing it on September 29th until
- 13 we've had a chance to take a look at that supplement
- 14 assuming that it's still going to be coming in.
- 15 MS. SEGNER: I would like to have Robert Ray
- 16 address the AFC supplement, and our view is that it will
- 17 be very minor and no schedule impact.
- 18 MR. RAY: Again, Robert Ray, URS Corporation.
- 19 We're currently working on preparation of the AFC
- 20 supplement. It's envisioned to include four main
- 21 components, one of which is a minor change to the
- 22 interconnection from the plant switch yard to the
- 23 existing Miguel Tijuana line. Previously what was
- 24 analyzed in the AFC is a line that comes out due east
- 25 out of the plant switch yard to connect to the Miguel

- 1 Tijuana line. Based on coordination with San Diego Gas
- 2 & Electric, they specified a route that took off more in
- 3 a northeast direction on.
- 4 MS. GEFTER: Mr. Ray, I think that the
- 5 details of your supplement could be discussed off the
- 6 record. All we need -- we're looking at just time lines
- 7 right now.
- 8 MR. RAY: Right now there are four components
- 9 that we're looking at. They're all minor. They have
- 10 been analyzed for biology and cultural already and
- 11 submittals to the Energy Commission. We're currently
- 12 envisioning that we can docket the AFC supplement by
- 13 August 21st.
- 14 MS. ALLEN: That's almost one month out from
- 15 now?
- 16 MR. RAY: Basically three weeks or so from
- 17 now, a little over three weeks, three weeks from Monday.
- 18 We would try to do it three weeks from tomorrow.
- 19 MS. GEFTER: Okay. Well, we will look for
- 20 the supplement and staff's SFA will then actually have
- 21 to split in order to analyze the supplement but we'll
- 22 see.
- MR. RAY: We'll certainly get it to you as
- 24 quickly as we can.
- MS. GEFTER: Thank you.

- 1 MS. SEGNER: It's somewhat debatable in terms
- 2 of that the air PSA -- or FSA is being tied to air PSA
- 3 when the other pieces of the PSA have been out for quite
- 4 some time. So whether or not everything is linked to
- 5 minor supplements when there's no biology, cultural
- 6 resources, or air impacts whether or not that will slow
- 7 the schedule is something certainly we would have a
- 8 discussion on.
- 9 COMMISSIONER LAURIE: I think what I'm
- 10 hearing is that we don't know until we see it.
- 11 MS. ALLEN: That's my point exactly.
- 12 MS. GEFTER: So what we're going to do is
- 13 based on what we've heard today, we're going to issue a
- 14 revised schedule. Now, if everything comes in sooner
- 15 that would be better, but at this point we're going to
- 16 try to issue a revised schedule that's realistic based
- 17 on what we've heard today. And if it turns out that
- 18 staff can get completed sooner than what we anticipate,
- 19 then the schedule can move up again.
- 20 MR. RAY: I would point out that also -- this
- 21 is Robert Ray with URS Corporation again -- that the
- 22 changes that we're looking at are the same changes that
- 23 I've provided to Eileen previously, and I had told her
- 24 to please not docket them because they were unofficial.
- 25 But just for your reference, they are as we provided

- 1 them previously just to give staff an idea of what the
- 2 changes are if you're interested.
- 3 One addition to that is going to be that the
- 4 site plan that was submitted to the county yesterday
- 5 afternoon, we will also address the changes to the site
- 6 plan. They shouldn't have any impacts to any resources,
- 7 but we do need from a description standpoint to discuss
- 8 what those minor changes are to the site plan.
- 9 MS. GEFTER: Okay. Thank you, and you'll
- 10 discuss that with staff off the record. Thank you very
- 11 much.
- 12 All right. Based on what we've heard today,
- 13 we hope that things turn out as well as everyone hopes
- 14 in the optimistic presentations.
- MR. THOMPSON: Yes, just one word about the
- 16 schedule. Let me suggest that you not take the schedule
- 17 out past the time of the FSA. We think that too much is
- 18 being made of the supplement. In large part we had to
- 19 wait for the county and other agencies, other entities,
- 20 to come to us. We think that the impacts in the
- 21 supplement are minor, and to affect a schedule that
- 22 could impact the ability to get on in the summer season,
- 23 it would be crucial to us. And we would just hope that
- 24 we would have the flexibility in the schedule or that
- 25 the schedule not go out so far that it would harm that

ability. MS. GEFTER: All right. And as you've seen so far, we haven't issued a schedule where we go past an FSA. We certainly couldn't go to a prehearing conference on the schedule. So we're going to look at a very short range revised schedule at this point, and then we'll revisit the schedule after we see an FSA. At this point we're going to have to wind up because the county needs their room back. Thank you everyone for your participation, and this meeting is adjourned. (Proceedings concluded at 5:21 p.m.)

1					
2	CERTIFICATION				
3					
4	I, Kelly S. Barbera, Certified Shorthand Reporter,				
5	in and for the State of California, do hereby certify:				
6					
7	That the foregoing videotaped proceedings were				
8	transcribed into typewriting under my direction; that				
9	the foregoing is a true record of the videotaped				
10	proceedings.				
11					
12	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my name this				
13	day of, 2000.				
14					
15					
16					
17					
18	Kelly S. Barbera, CSR No. 8295				
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					